

THE TIMES

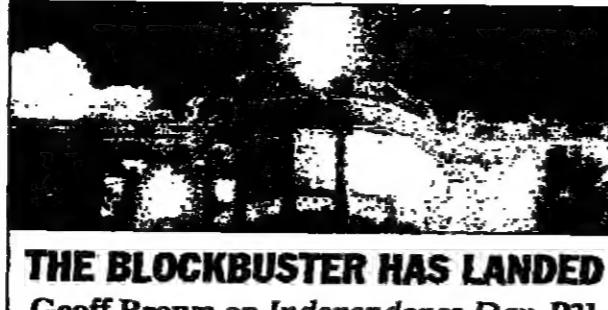
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THURSDAY AUGUST 8 1996



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PAGES 36, 37



THE BLOCKBUSTER HAS LANDED
Geoff Brown on *Independence Day*, P31

BODY AND MIND

Dr Thomas Stuttaford
on the suffering of
a surviving twin, P14

BEST FOR

BOOKS

■ Marianne Wiggins
on Cynthia Ozick ■ Roger
Scruton on Enlightenment
Plus: Bernard Levin
on Wagner, PAGES 34, 35



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TOP JOBS
SECTION 3

'It will surely be one of the most stunning insights into our world'

Clinton hails discovery of life on Mars

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday saluted as "stunning" the discovery that life may have evolved independently on Mars.

Promising to pursue the discovery through further missions to the planet — the first will be launched in November — the President announced that a science summit would be held later this year to discuss the finding.

If confirmed, he said, "It will surely be one of the most stunning insights into our world that science has ever uncovered. Its implications are as far reaching and as awe-inspiring as can be imagined. Even as it promises answers to some of our oldest questions, it poses others even more fundamental."

The evidence comes from a meteorite which began as a piece of rock on Mars 4.5 billion years ago, was splashed off its surface by an asteroid impact 15 million years ago, and reached Antarctica as a meteorite 12,000 years ago. "It speaks to us across billions of years and millions of miles," the President said.

He was speaking before the scientists involved explained why they believe the meteorite suggests that there was once life on Mars. Dr David McKay of the Johnson Space Centre in Houston, who led the team of scientists at the American space agency Nasa, admitted that the story was a controversial one and that there would be a lot of disagreement. "But the team is in consensus that we are on the right track".

The claim is certain to be subjected to minute examination before others accept that it really does constitute the first evidence of extraterrestrial life. Dan Goldin, the Nasa Administrator, conceded that the evidence was "not conclusive" but was more of the nature of a detective story which pointed to the conclusion the team had drawn.

The meteorite was found by



an American expedition to Antarctica in 1984, but it had been recognised only recently to have been of Martian origin. The rock of which the meteorite is made formed about 4.5 billion years ago, at the same time as the rocks on Earth were forming.

About 15 million years ago, the impact of an asteroid or a comet on the surface of Mars threw up a mass of material, which then went into orbit on its own, beginning an odyssey through the solar system which ended when it entered the Earth's atmosphere about 13,000 years ago.

The evidence that it really did come from Mars comes from the fact that it contains a higher percentage of a heavier form of oxygen than is normally found on Earth, and at a level typical of that found in Martian soil by the Viking spacecraft which landed on the planet in the 1970s.

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Assault on Mars, page 3
William Rees-Mogg, page 16
Leading article, page 17

Hunt for Caroline killer starts again from scratch

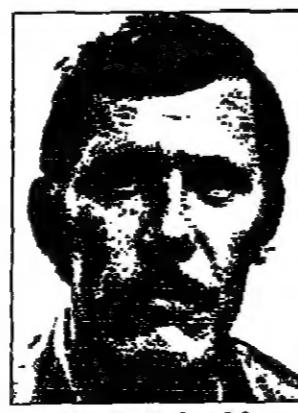
By JOANNA BALE AND BEN MACINTYRE

A TRAMP was released from prison in Brittany last night after apparently being cleared of raping and murdering Caroline Dickinson.

Patrice Padé, 39, withdrew his murder confession after DNA tests proved that he was not the rapist, throwing the investigation into disarray.

The police now want to question again two boys from Launceston College who were on the school trip when Caroline was killed at a youth hostel in Pleine Fougeres.

Police are also expected to renew their inquiries about a young man with blonde hair seen wearing a military-style parka jacket, who is believed to have attacked two other women near the village in the days before and after the murder. M Padé, a known sex offender who was arrested two days after the killing on July 18, hid his face as he was driven away from prison, by



Patrice Padé: freed from prison after DNA tests

Test captains in a whole new ball game

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ONCE it was a sacred ritual for the English sporting summer, the two cricket captains marching to the middle to toss for choice of innings. Now, as that tradition has become distorted by the demands of television, the captains engage in a second, very private ritual.

M Padé was nevertheless placed under judicial control with an obligation to live at a certain address so that police can interview him again.

The local police, who began their investigation from scratch with house-to-house inquiries last night — might now be pulled off the case and replaced by detectives from the regional headquarters, according to rumours last night.

Detectives also suggested that the hunt could move to Launceston. An officer involved in the investigation said that the police in Cornwall had offered to help, although Chief Inspector Frank Porter of Launceston police said: "We have received no request from France."

Reader balls for their tendency to begin swinging extravagantly in mid-innings.

The rules of the International Cricket Council state that when a host country has two authorised manufacturers and the teams disagree over which to use, the toss must resolve the issue. At Lord's, a fortnight ago, Pakistan won the toss and the game, the Reader ball performing contortions for Waqar Younis.

Both captains agree that this is a highly influential factor in the series, yet it is decided behind closed doors, leaving spectators ignorant of its outcome and perhaps its existence. The toss will take place after the captains have studied the pitch, and will allow them time to revise their final XIs before they pick their way through the television cameras, wires and presenters to make the official toss.

Test preview, page 44

Short breaks ranks and says Labour could lose

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

TONY BLAIR suffered his worst blow since becoming Labour leader last night when a member of the Shadow Cabinet openly voiced doubts over whether the party would win the next general election.

In an astonishing interview in this week's *New Statesman* Clare Short, who was demoted in Mr Blair's front bench reshuffle two weeks ago, suggested that Labour was in danger of throwing away victory and criticised the direction in which he was leading the party. Without attacking Mr Blair directly, Miss Short, who was moved from the job of transport spokesman to the backwater of overseas development, delivered an outspoken tirade against the Labour leader's advisers whom she suggested were the forces of darkness.

Miss Short said in the interview: "It is absolutely imperative for Britain and the party that we win. If we don't win it would be the end of Labour as a party of power at least for a generation, if not for ever. I have thought for the first time over the past few weeks that we could throw away victory."

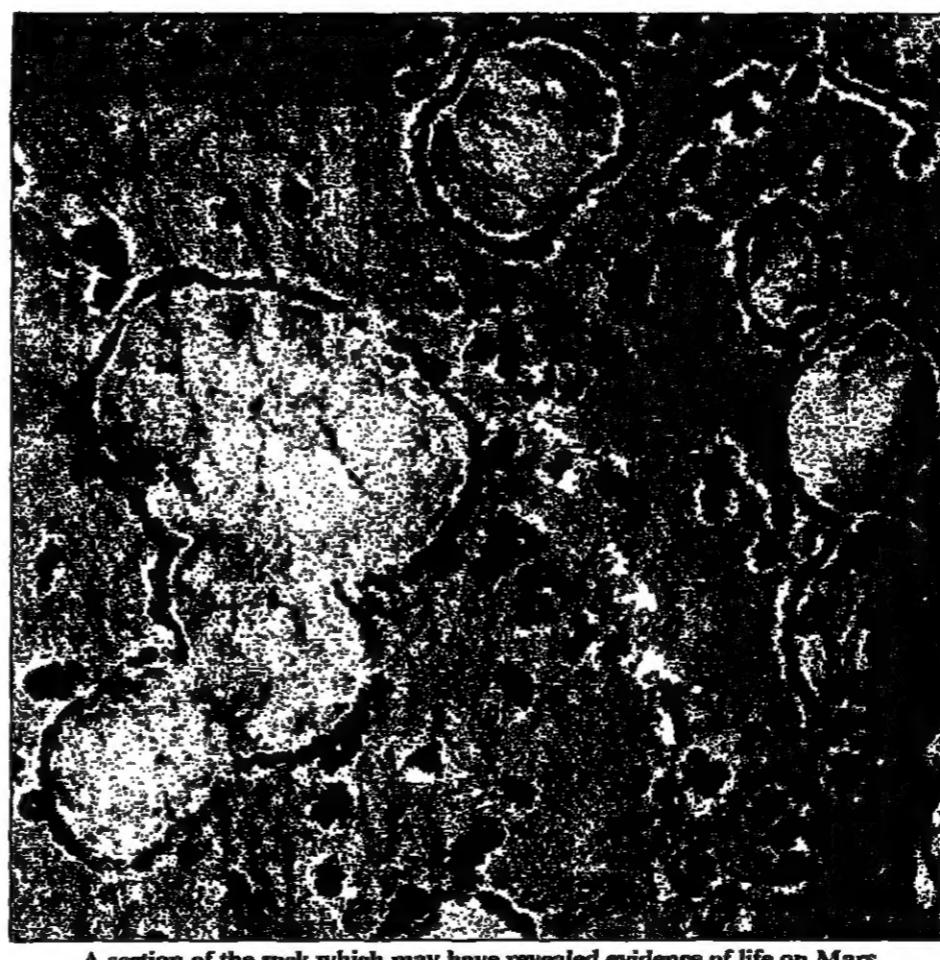
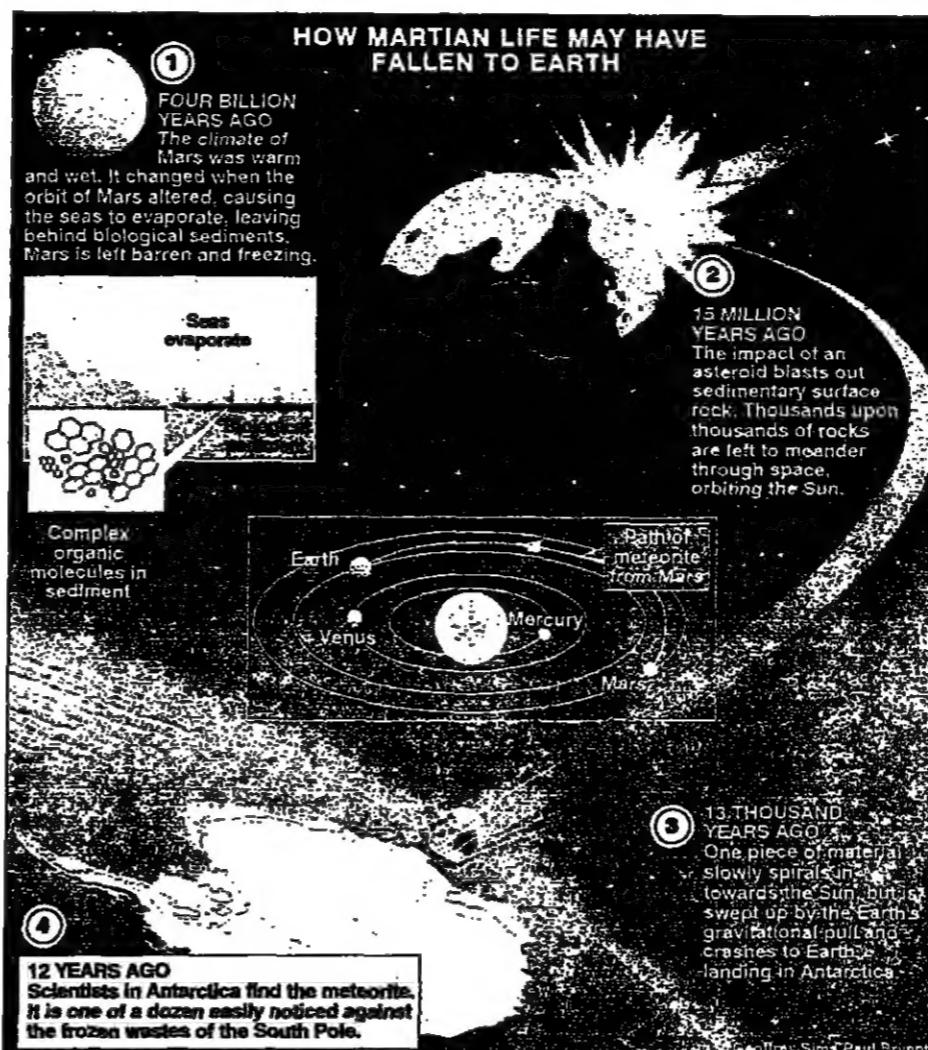
Miss Short was moved from her high profile post after a series of gaffes that has embarrassed the leadership. The aim was to put her in a less politically sensitive area. But her interview will be seen by many in the leadership as an amazing act of revenge for her demotion and it is likely to be seen as a virtual indictment to Mr Blair to dismiss her from any formal speaking post. She cannot be ousted from the Shadow Cabinet formally because she was elected to it.

She attacked what she saw as Mr Blair's misguided strategy. She criticised the "obsession with the media and focus groups" which she said was making Labour look as if it wanted power at any price and as if it did not stand for anything. She said that the people around Mr Blair who thought that he had got to be made to look strong were making him less attractive.

"This is a very stupid thing to do. He came along as a fresh, young, principled and decent man and some people are trying to turn him into a macho man," she added: "I know they are doing it because they think it is the way to win, but I think they are making the wrong judgment and they endanger our victory." She called for a "pulling back from where we are now". She said: "Tony should be more of his principled self. He should talk more about what we stand for and not be so much a strong leader above us all. There should be less modification over the things we stand for and pruning it down and down and down to be acceptable to the *Daily Mail* because I do not think the *Daily Mail* will ever support us."

Miss Short does not name the Blair advisers whom she has so clearly in her sights. But they will be recognised within the party as Peter Mandelson, recently appointed as Mr Blair's chief election planner and a long-time confidant; Alastair Campbell, his chief press secretary; and Tim Allan, Mr Campbell's deputy. Miss Short is known to be resentful about the way Mr Blair's media advisers privately criticised her after a series of controversial statements, particularly her call for the legalisation of cannabis.

She joked that she sometimes called those people "Continued on page 2, col 3



A section of the rock which may have revealed evidence of life on Mars

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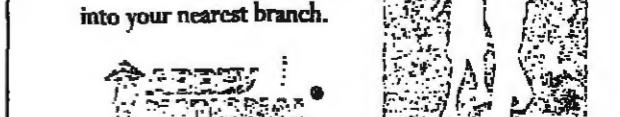
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Bank says that rates must rise

The Bank of England told Kenneth Clarke that he must raise interest rates "sooner rather than later" to keep the battle against inflation on course. The Bank also set itself on a collision course with the Government over tax cuts by expressing concern about borrowing..... Page 2 Anatole Kaletsky, page 27

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32
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Hunt for Caroline killer starts again from scratch

By JOANNA BALE AND BEN MACINTYRE

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line Dickinson.

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Patrice Padé: freed from prison after DNA tests

TV & RADIO 42, 43
WEATHER 22
CROSSWORD 22, 44

LETTERS 17, 27
OBITUARIES 19
WILLIAM REES-MOGG 16

ARTS 31-33
CHESS & BRIDGE 40
COURT & SOCIAL 18

SPORT 38-42, 44
BODY & MIND 14
LAW REPORT 28

Prospect of making an earth-trembling discovery lifts space scientists' excitement to new heights

Three missions destined for date with Red Planet

By NICHOLAS BOOTH

A NEW assault will begin on Mars this autumn. Blasting off from Cape Canaveral and Kazakhstan, no fewer than three unmanned spacecraft will be launched towards the Red Planet to arrive next summer. They will drop landers, robotic vehicles and automatic weather stations onto the surface.

Howard Shaw of the University of Kent at Canterbury said: "These missions have been planned for some time. Today's announcement adds a new dimension to our efforts."

Two of the three missions are built by Nasa and will be launched in late October. But it is the Russian Mars 96 mission, scheduled for launch on November 16, which will shed the most light on the possibility of Martian life.

After arriving in orbit around Mars, the spacecraft will fire two mortar-like shells into the soil. Known as penetrators, they will make detailed chemical analyses of the soil and the permafrost believed to lie underneath it.

On impact, the front end of the penetrators will separate out and excavate a hole bore — perhaps as long as ten metres, experts believe. A TV camera and automatic weather station will remain on the surface and act like an anchor.

"Officially, the Mars 96 mission is not looking for life,"



Martian landscape: plenty of rubble, but what else?

Mr Shaw said. "But the penetrators are the only vehicles capable of analysing the soil directly in the new missions." His group at Kent's Unit for Space Science is responsible for calibrating the instruments on board, which also include seismometers and heat sensors.

The great mystery from earlier analyses of the Martian soil is its lack of organic material. These are molecules which comprise long chains of carbon that are the basis for life. Their absence is puzzling: if there were Martian micro-organisms, their mortal remains should have been left behind. But the action of sunlight on the topsoil may have removed them.

Underneath the surface soil, scientists believe there is a layer of permafrost, perhaps ten metres deep. Within this

frozen material there may be further evidence for the fossilized remains of life which was formed in the earliest epochs of Martian history.

The Mars 96 orbiter will also drop two landers onto the surface, as will the first US Pathfinder mission to Mars, which will also carry a small, automatic rover. At the same time, the Mars Global Surveyor will map the whole of the planet down to a resolution of one metre.

Cuts in the Russian space programme mean that a further mission in 1998 has been cancelled. But Nasa has a series of missions that will culminate in the return of Martian samples in 2005.

The meteorite in which

Martian life may have been

found is part of a rare group of itinerant rocks that spend thousands of years wandering

through space. Many thousands of these pieces of interplanetary flotsam have landed on Earth, but only a dozen are believed to have come from Mars. These rare objects have a chemical composition broadly similar to soil samples analysed on the surface of the Red Planet 20 years ago by Nasa's Viking spacecraft.

Nasa's evidence of Martian life has prompted bookmakers hastily to check the small print in the wording of wagers on the discovery of extra-terrestrial life. When man reached the moon before 1970, William Hill lost £100,000.

Unfortunately for any punters claiming payouts on 500-1 bets placed before Tuesday's announcement, proof is required that the life forms discovered are "intelligent".

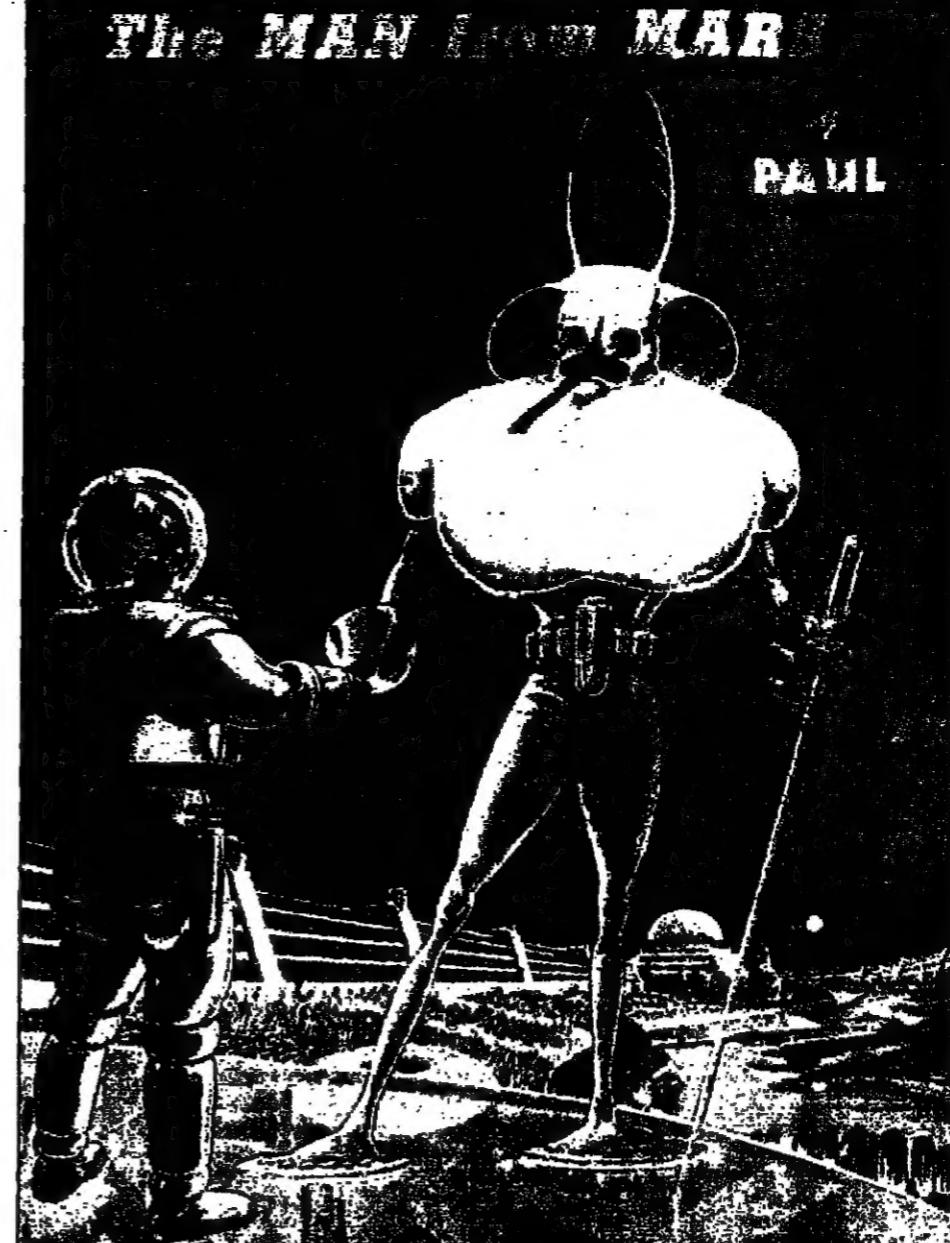
Graham Sharpe, of William Hill, which stands to lose £1 million, said: "For the last 20 years we have offered bets if Nasa confirms the existence of intelligent extra-terrestrial life. We are glad we inserted that word intelligent."

Both William Hill and Ladbrokes agree that microscopic fossils on a comet in Antarctica do not qualify as little green men. However, just to be sure, Hill's cut the odds from 500-1 to 25-1, and Ladbrokes from 250-1 to 50-1.

William Rees-Mogg, page 16
Leading article, page 17

The MAN WHO LIED

PAUL



Expeditions to Mars have given scientists a clearer view of the planet than that envisaged by some writers, who imagined bizarre aliens walking its surface

British scientist was slow at school

By ADAM FRESCO

A BRITISH scientist who helped to discover evidence of extra-terrestrial life on Mars was slow learner at school and told he would have to work "very hard" to pass just three O levels.

Dr Simon Clemmet, 28, from Havant in Hampshire, has received international acclaim for his work as one of nine Nasa experts who analysed the meteorite for evidence of life-forms, but his school reports left a little to be desired. He did not start reading until he was eight.

But it was discovered that the boy was dyslexic. After receiving help, he went on to gain 11 O levels, five A levels and an S level and to win a place at Oxford to read chemistry. He took his PhD, in physical chemistry, at Stanford University, California.

Dr Clemmet's father Colin, 67, who worked for the Ministry of Defence researching airborne communications, said: "Once Simon realised his difficulties were not his fault, he grew in confidence and started to read. He loved anything about science. The stars and dinosaurs were his favourites."

Mr Clemmet added that his son's discovery was "an amazing progression for him from when he was at school. I am very proud of him."

In the beginning, did God also create aliens?

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE prospect of life on Mars has given religious groups into turmoil last night as they tried to reconcile the biblical story of Creation with the latest scientific discovery.

Some creationists, who believe that God created the world in a week, as described in *Genesis*, dismissed the discovery as "clutching at straws" and demanded further proof.

Dr John Peet, a retired chemistry lecturer of the Biblical Creation Society, said: "Creationists would be in an extremely difficult position if intelligent life was found elsewhere, because that would seem to conflict completely with what the Bible says."

But he added: "In terms if non-intelligent life, there is not the same magnitude of problem because God could obviously put life anywhere. The Bible seems to teach that the Universe and the Earth were made specifically for Man, so it is difficult to see how life could appear elsewhere. But there is nothing in the Bible which says there is no

said: "I doubt they can prove this meteorite actually came from Mars. I would doubt very much that there is such a thing as extra-terrestrial life."

"Evolutionaries are desperate to find evidence of extra-terrestrial life. They would jump at the slightest bit of circumstantial evidence that there is life on Mars. This is clutching at straws." If intelligent life were discovered elsewhere, his faith would remain unshaken.

Basil Varman, general administrator of the Pentecostal Assemblies of God in Britain, said: "We are more concerned about life on Earth and in Heaven than on other planets. We tend to take scientific 'evidence' with a pinch of salt — we don't agree with the Darwin theory of evolution, for instance."

The mainstream Christian bodies were less perturbed. Keith Ewing, of the Evangelical Alliance, said: "The discovery is no threat to Christian belief and it would be wrong to portray science and Christianity as in total conflict. The conflict arises only from an ideological position that science is the only valid form of knowledge and has got all the answers."

A spokesman for the Roman Catholic Church said: "There is no proof yet, but if there were then it would cause some sort of rethink. But we will wait until they contact us."

The Rev David Streater, of the evangelical Church Society, said: "Even if you totally accepted the theory of evolution, the questions would still remain — who created the Big Bang and what was there before it?"

A Church of England spokesman said: "We believe that God created the whole universe so I don't think there could be a problem."

Rabbi Dr Jonathan Romani, of the Jewish Reform community, said: "Should any aliens be found to exist, they would be as much the creatures of God as are humans."

Early life may have advanced in parallel

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BIOLOGISTS believe that life began on Earth by the combination of elements that filled the seas with a rich soup of molecules. From what we know of the early history of Mars, exactly the same thing would have been happening there.

Somehow, molecules emerged that had the capacity to copy themselves — to reproduce. Experiments in which the process has been copied in the laboratory have got as far as producing amino acids, the building blocks of proteins and their simple cousins, peptides.

Until now, nobody has

shown how a peptide can copy itself. By coincidence, this week's issue of *Nature* publishes a paper from scientists at the Scripps Institute in La Jolla, California, describing just such a self-replicating peptide.

From this to even simple forms of life is another huge step. The best guess is that the first single-cell life forms existed on Earth about 3.5 billion years ago, almost the same age as the structures identified on the Martian meteorite, which suggests that up to this time, life on Earth and on Mars may have advanced in step.

Geoff Chapman, a Methodist lay preacher and secretary of the Creation Resources Trust, a body which promotes the biblical view of Creation,

subject of a massive 40-year US Government cover-up.

An extraterrestrial space-craft crashed to earth at Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947 and has been stored ever since in a vault beneath "Area 51", a secret Pentagon facility within the Nellis nuclear test range near Roswell. UFO enthusiasts fervently believe.

A gathering of 4,000 is expected in Roswell later this month to demand the opening to the public of Area 51, whose existence the Government acknowledged for the first time last year. That, says Mrs Clayton, is where to find the little green men.

AT THE Little A-Le-Inn on Nevada's Extraterrestrial Highway, news of life on Mars was greeted not so much with excitement as with interplanetary ennui.

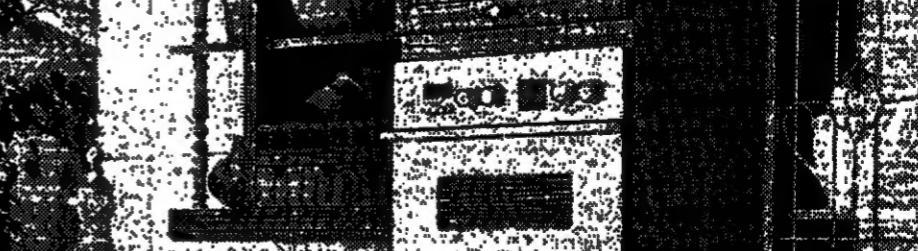
"Oh, really, they got proof now?" yawned Paula Clayton, proprietor of the only hostelry on route 375 through the hostile desert north of Las Vegas. "That was pretty much assumed round here. We are not alone."

Route 375, which used to be one of the loneliest roads in America, was officially designated ET Highway earlier this year and is to be adorned with signs welcoming passing

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'A sales manager has targets, but the number of funerals taken is not a valid performance indicator'

Vicars to appraise each other's success in church

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

VICARS, traditionally answerable only to God, are asked to be sit in judgment on each other under guidelines being drawn up by the Church of England.

More than 13,000 clergy are to have "peer appraisal reviews", where they will be required to assess each other's performance from the pew to the pulpit, give credit where due and work out areas where improvement is needed. The appraisals, the latest in a series of secular management techniques to infiltrate the Church, will help clergy to assess how they carry out tasks such as baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Rather than working to targets — such as numbers of baptisms — clergy are being encouraged to improve the quality of pastoral care they offer. They are said to welcome the prospect. Stuck in far-flung parishes, sometimes for years, they can often feel isolated and unnoticed by the



Rev Bell: said clergy were answerable to God

hierarchy, or frustrated by the lack of feedback.

Few congregations are prepared to respond openly to the quality of a priest's sermons or ministry, although parishioners might sometimes attempt to undermine a vicar by writing to his or her bishop behind their back. Many dioceses have introduced performance review systems recently but these vary and often rely on assessment by a bishop or his nominee.

Peer group reviews are favoured by clergy because they help them set their own agenda and operate outside a system of reward and punishment. The scheme, outlined in *People Management*, a magazine for personnel managers, will be debated at a church conference on clergy training in September. Guidelines for each of England's 43 dioceses are expected to be published in March.

The Rev Margaret Jackson, of the Advisory Board of

Ministry, said: "It is not about performance in the sense of how many baptisms or funerals the clergy take. It is more to do with how they, as a priest or deacon, develop their ministry in a particular place."

A sales manager can talk about targets, but for clergy in terms of targets and performance, he tells clergy to look for a "desired outcome". Mr

Stevenson, who has helped to introduce such a scheme in the Oxford diocese, where bishops, archdeacons and clergy are all involved, said: "The clergy here pair up with someone, to give them ongoing support and to help them to take credit for what they do well, as well as to pinpoint what is causing them grief."

He said the idea came to him from his work as chaplain in a psychiatric hospital, where the nurses use a similar scheme. Rather than speaking in terms of targets and performance, he tells clergy to look for a "desired outcome". Mr

Stevenson said: "For example, I'm a hospital chaplain. For me, the fewer people in church the better, because it means patients are home for the weekend."

Peer reviews could help discover areas where change was needed, he said. "If you are weak in administration or youth work, you may have to declare you are no good in this area and see how this can be delegated."

The Rev Tony Bell, of the clergy section of the Manufacturing, Science, Finance union, which has more than



Under the scheme, vicars would be assessed from the pew to the pulpit to identify where they needed help

600 members, said: "We are answerable to God. We are theologians, pastoral leaders, not managers. Appraisal is a good idea, but one of the reasons it is frowned upon is that it is seen as a means of diocesan control."

The union is expected to

recommend a system of trained clerical appraisers, who will train other clergy. Other management techniques adapted by the Church include psychometric testing, which is being introduced to help bishops to assess recruits to the ministry.

Euro-sceptics seek boycott of Sainsbury's

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

HARDLINE opponents of the European Union are calling for a nationwide boycott of the Sainsbury's supermarket chain in protest at the family's support for pro-Brussels causes. Sainsbury's is at the top of a list of companies identified by the Campaign for an Independent Britain whose directors have made corporate or personal donations to federalist organisations.

David Sainsbury, chairman of the group, has donated about £250,000 to the European Movement. The money is being used for an autumn campaign in defence of the single currency. Mr Sainsbury has reportedly also donated a sum to the Federal Trust. Both organisations are fighting for closer integration and harmonisation in the EU.

The Campaign for an Independent Britain, whose president is the Tory Euro-sceptic MP Sir Richard Body, is urging its members to switch their weekly shopping expedites to Tesco supermarkets.

The TSB Lloyds group is also on the boycott list, along with

British Telecom, the Rover group and Jaguar.

Sir Robin Williams, secretary of the campaign, which favours withdrawal from the EU, said: "Real money is being lined up by big businesses keen to sell out our country for their own narrow commercial advantages. Thousands of pounds are pouring into the coffers of pro-Brussels groups and a huge propaganda drive is being organised. It is time to make companies pay the price for their collaborative activities with the EU."

Quentin Davies, a Tory MP and vice-chairman of the European Movement, was contemptuous of the boycott call. "How immature," he said. "These people really are barmy. The fact is our interests are in Europe which is why household names such as David Sainsbury are so heavily involved."

A spokeswoman for Sainsbury's would only say: "David Sainsbury makes donations in a personal, not a corporate, capacity."

Bupa sex taunt case settled with payout

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SALESWOMAN who claimed that a female boss teased her about her breasts and asked questions about her virginity withdrew her allegation of sexual harassment yesterday in return for compensation understood to be about £10,000.

Joanna Poole, 22, who brought the case against the healthcare company Bupa, said after the two-day industrial tribunal hearing in Croydon, south London: "I'm relieved it is all over. I just want to go home and go on holiday."

Miss Poole, who earned £13,000 a year as a telesales worker, had told the tribunal that she felt humiliated by Christine Butland, 26, the sales manager at Bupa's of-



Poole: said female boss had humiliated her

fices in Staines, Surrey. She said that Mrs Butland had made comments about and touched her breasts, and made her tell a meeting details of how she had lost her virginity.

Bupa said Miss Poole had freely joined in the office banter and found it amusing.

After hearing legal argument, the tribunal chairwoman, Joan Mason, said: "Both parties have agreed to settle this case on terms agreed between them."

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'It was like banging my head against a brick wall. The bank kept insisting it was correct'

NatWest in £50,000 payout to clients who were overcharged

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

A BRANCH of the National Westminster Bank apologised to business customers yesterday after overcharging them by up to £14,000 each.

Managers at the bank in King's Lynn, Norfolk, paid £50,000 in rebates and compensation to nine firms after blaming the errors on failure to follow procedures. The mistakes, involving high overdraft interest payments and cheque charges, were uncovered only when customers refused to accept bank denials and called in specialists.

One engineering firm won a £14,000 refund after it was overcharged for six years. Tom Kemp, a beef farmer, was awarded £11,242 after claiming money was wrongly taken from his account.

Mr Kemp, 59, from East Bilney, Norfolk, was first offered £3,000 in 1992 after

National Westminster Bank
Lynn Lynn Branch

reading about other cases of overcharging in a farming magazine. The offer was later increased but fell short of the full sum until he called in a company which specialised in recovering excess charges.

"I knew something was

wrong and I was losing money

— but it was like banging my

head against a brick wall. The

bank kept insisting it was

correct, but I persevered until

I got my money back," Mr

Kemp said.

"It took the bank three years

to admit it was wrong to the

extent it was and pay up. I

closed my account in disgust

while I was fighting them —

but the NatWest refused to give me a reference, which led to problems with me getting an account elsewhere."

Bob Whalley, 33, who runs a vehicle restoration firm in Trinity All Saints, won a £466 refund for errors dating back seven years, and is claiming a further £4,000. "I knew I was paying a lot of money in charges, but I could not put my finger on where the mistakes were," Mr Whalley said.

"It took the bank 11 months to admit I was owed £500 from 1989 and I am now hopeful of getting further rebates from them."

Mark Radin, of Anglia Business Associates, the firm which identified the errors, said: "This is the worst case of multiple overcharging by just one branch that I have ever come across. It is quite possible that many other customers at the branch have been overcharged by the bank with-



Tom Kemp, a beef farmer, was awarded £11,242

out realising it." Other rebates included £7,000 for a building materials supplier, £2,000 for a property developer, £1,500 for an insurance firm, £1,000 for a print company and £500 for another engineering firm.

National Westminster said last night that it had investigated the cases and apologised to customers. Clare Brown, a spokeswoman, said: "We are

aware of past instances where business customers at our King's Lynn branch have been overcharged. This is not a national problem."

She blamed human error in incorrect marking of overdraft limits and interest rates but said tighter procedures and more detailed breakdowns of charges had since been introduced.

It pays to check your statement

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

BELIEVING that your bank is infallible can be an expensive error. Mistakes do occur. They will seldom be in your favour, as numerous businesses and individuals have discovered.

Patricia Griffiths Associates, a firm of independent banking consultants, has uncovered errors stretching back several years, amounting in some cases to as much as £84,000, easily enough to send a small business to the wall.

This type of bank error usually arises from the overcharging of overdraft interest. When you ask permission to go into the red, you will pay an authorised rate.

Considerably higher penal rates are payable for unauthorised overdrafts. Either the bank may mistakenly charge the unauthorised rate, or a rate different from the authorised one you agreed.

The differences between authorised and unauthorised rates can be seen in the Midland's tariff of charges. Its authorised rate for personal

customers is 16 per cent, with a £7 monthly fee; its unauthorised rate is 24.6 per cent, with a monthly fee of £17.

Its authorised rates for business customers are negotiable. These customers pay from 2 to 6 percentage points above the base rate, which is currently 5.75 per cent. The unauthorised business overdraft rate is 26 per cent.

Patricia Griffiths says that everyone should check the overall interest figure on their statement. "It's easy to arrive at a rough figure of what you should be paying in interest. If you have agreed to pay 2 per cent over base for your business overdraft, you should be paying, at the current level of rates, 7.75 per cent."

"Say you have an overdraft of £10,000. Take the £10,000 and multiply it by 7.75 per cent and then divide by 12 to give a monthly amount. You should be paying £64.58 in interest each month. You should then compare this approximate figure with the bank's charge."

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Jets came within a second of crash

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

TWO French airliners carrying a total of more than 200 people came within 200ft and a split-second of colliding over southeast London in one of the most serious near-miss incidents recorded over Britain. Only a last-second warning from an air traffic controller prevented an Air France Airbus A320 from smashing into an Air Littoral Fokker F70 at 9,000ft. The near miss, in May last year, was disclosed yesterday by the Civil Aviation Authority in an official Aircraft Proximity Report.

The A320, heading for Heathrow from Paris Charles de Gaulle, was circling at 10,000ft above Biggin Hill in southeast London. A thousand feet below the Fokker twin jet was also circling. The air traffic controller at West Drayton meanwhile instructed another aircraft circling at 10,000ft over Witley, Surrey, to descend to 9,000ft. To his horror he saw the Air France jet over Biggin Hill descend directly towards the Fokker 9,000ft below.

The aircraft were so close that they merged on the radar display. The report stated: "With some urgency in his voice the controller responded immediately, 'Eight zero six. Negative. Climb flight level one zero zero, flight level 100' [10,000ft]. The panel set up to investigate praised his 'impressive diligence and skill'.

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here board

THE TIMES THURSDAY AUGUST 8 1996

RK ROMAN BRITAIN 9

Chester invites debate over strange elliptical building and its role as a base for invasion of Ireland

Port city that leaves scholars with two unsolved questions

REPORTS BY ALAN HAMILTON

DEVA, the Roman Chester, was the largest fort in the country. It covered 60 acres when all the others were 50 acres or less, boasted the largest amphitheatre and contained a large, mysterious elliptical building the like of which has been found nowhere else in the empire. Clearly, something pretty important was going on here.

Founded in AD79, Chester was a frontier post from which to push forward the boundaries of empire among the savage tribes of North Wales and the equally recalcitrant Brigantes to the north and east. Its large harbour on the River Dee and its central location made it a candidate for provincial capital of Britain, until London's advantage of being much nearer the Continent won the day.

But could Chester also have been the springboard for that enduring Roman controversy, an invasion of Ireland? Most scholars agree that no such invasion took place, but they admit the possibility that successive governors of Britain may well have thought about it, and even made preparations for a D-Day-style landing. Chester would have been the natural place to assemble and victual a fleet, to gather the invasion troops and from which to sally forth



along the relative shelter of the North Wales coast. However, imperial strategy changed and the legions found themselves trying to subdue the Picts instead. With most of its regular troops away crossing swords with Highlanders, or building Hadrian's Wall, much of Chester was left deserted, rubbish piling up in its streets and empty houses, until it enjoyed a 2nd-century revival when Rome had finally given up trying to bring Caledonia to heel.

Chester was always a fort rather than a civilian town, and the surviving massive medieval walls and gridiron street plan closely follow its 2000-year-old origins. Do not, however, be misled by the word fort. Dr Peter Carrington, senior archaeologist with Chester City Council, says: "You cannot compare a legionary fort with a modern army barracks, which are strictly utilitarian. A fort was

more than that. It was an advertisement for the Roman way of life, with its Mediterranean architecture, bathhouses and entertainments. The message to the natives was: 'Come in, have a look, and be impressed.'

The strange elliptical building may have had something to do with that. It baffled the archaeologists who uncovered it during construction of the Forum shopping precinct in the 1960s, under whose foundations it is now hopelessly lost. Begun in AD 79 at the founding of Chester, but never completed, it consisted of 12 wedge-shaped rooms around a courtyard. Current thinking speculates that it may have been a quasi-religious shrine to the glory of Rome and its emperors, or an *imago mundi*, a kind of early Great Exhibition celebrating the various regions of the Roman Empire or the known world.

As for the amphitheatre, which lies half-excavated in the city centre, it too probably played its part in impressing the natives, with Roman equivalents of the Royal Tour-

ament and the Edinburgh Tattoo. Senior imperial officials were regular visitors to Chester and they liked to put on a show. Plans to unearth the other half of the amphitheatre were floated in the 1980s but came to nothing

and the site remains bisected by an ugly concrete wall.

Being a port, Roman Chester was undoubtedly a cosmopolitan place, as the remarkably well-preserved gravestones displayed in the city's Grosvenor Museum tes-

tify. One is of a Sarmatian horseman from what is now Hungary, and two more are in Greek: the Greeks were the intellectual smart set of the Roman Empire, often practising as doctors. Perhaps the

fragment, with the deceased's name missing, and the only legible inscription *Nauphragio Perit*: He died in a shipwreck.

Tomorrow: Colchester and Bath



Bath-house lies buried under Spud-U-Like

CHESTER's impressively visible city walls are almost entirely medieval, although they partially follow the course of the Roman originals. The best Roman fragment, still standing to 15ft, can be seen by standing on the canal bridge just outside Northgate.

The amphitheatre is unmistakable, forcing the modern main road into a long sweeping curve to avoid it. Alongside, in Souters Lane, is the Roman Garden, filled with bits of Roman columns and other architectural fragments too big for museums. It is a perfect spot for relaxation. Across the street are the substantial foundations of the angle-tower that guarded a corner of the fort's walls.

Most of Roman Chester lies hidden beneath the modern city, but it occasionally peeps through in basements. In the unlikely setting of the Spud-U-Like shop at 39 Bridge Street is a large and well-preserved section of a hypocaust which heated the garrison bath-house. In Jigsaw, a clothes shop at 23 Northgate Street, you can see column bases and shafts

from the fort's headquarters building. Miss Selfridge at 12 Northgate Street has another fragment of hypocaust.

Cross the Dee at the end of Lower Bridge Street and turn immediately right into Edgar's Field to see the badly weathered Shrine of Minerva, carved into the stone of what was the principal Roman sandstone quarry in the area.

Chester's Grosvenor Museum (Mon-Sat 10.30-5, Sun 2-5, admission free) has a good collection of Roman gravestones and funerary monuments, many broken but their inscriptions still remarkably clear from having been used as facing stones in the medieval city walls, carved side inwards. From the museum, a short walk across the Dee leads to the racecourse, which in Roman times was the centre of an important port. Fragments of the original quay are visible as you descend from the road.

Dewa Roman Experience, Pierpoint Lane, off Bridge Street, is a "theme" museum alongside a genuine fragment of city wall (open daily 9-5.30).

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Suharto bid to keep big business in the family

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN JAKARTA

PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S family fortune is the biggest mystery in Indonesia, although everyone knows it is vast. Some of his six children are among the world's wealthiest tycoons and the family's political, economic, social and even military power in the world's fourth most populous country is practically beyond measure.

There are two subjects the President never discusses publicly: the succession and family business. His refusal to name a successor, or even to establish machinery to choose one, makes the nation jittery, while questions about his family's privileged business opportunities fuel criticism of nepotism. The family's wealth may rival that of the Sultan of Brunei, the world's richest person.

A significant slice of Indonesia's fast-growing "tiger" economy is controlled by his children, whose interests range from car-making to petrochemical plants, road toll companies and satellite communications. The President signed a decree granting his

youngest son, "Tommy" Hutomo Mandala Putra, exclusive tax and tariff concessions to develop a national car, undercutting competitors who must pay swinging import duties. His vehicle will sell at about half the price of competing vehicles.

The family's interests are believed to range far beyond the known companies into a range of subsidiary interests not publicly linked to the Suhartos. Substantial political power also rests with the children. The eldest daughter, Tunut Siti Hadjimin Rukmana, 47, and the second son, Bambang Trihatmadi, hold senior posts in Golkar, the government party, one of only three groups that are allowed to contest elections.

President Suharto, 75, a former general, retains good relations with the Army and is said to bridge the generation gap between him and commanders through his son-in-law, Brigadier General Prabowo Subianto, married to the second Suharto daughter.

Mrs Tunut's extensive business interests include control



Hutomo Mandala Putra, son of President Suharto, who has been given tax and tariff concessions to develop a national car

of a company, listed on the stock market in 1994, that collects revenues from Java's main toll roads. She has been tipped as a possible presidential successor, but some analysts believe that President Suharto's priority is not the establishment of a political dynasty but the securing of his family's business interests when he is not around to promote or protect them.

That means trying to ensure

that the family is protected from retroactive vindictiveness: the children's business privileges have caused resentment among business rivals and Japan has been threatening legal action against the tax and duty concessions that will make "Tommy's" national car, production of which is being set up in co-operation with a South Korean firm, so cheap. There are two Suharto cars: Bambang has also developed

one in co-operation with another South Korean company, but without the tax and duty advantages. The brothers are thus business rivals.

Bambang owns a petrochemical plant and earlier this year was reported to be negotiating for a £645 million contract with the state oil company, Pertamina, to build a national gas extraction plant. A grandson has been given the right to raise a levy on beer.

FROM ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM

PRESIDENT ASSAD of Syria yesterday dismissed an initial attempt by Israel's right-wing Government to make peace with his country.

Mr Assad said he would never agree to the offer made by Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, to withdraw Israeli troops from southern Lebanon as a precursor to peace with Damascus.

The Syrian leader said those who promoted the "Lebanon first" policy were not interested in real peace. "Syria and Lebanon first — at the same time, in the same steps," Mr Assad told a news conference after meeting President Mubarak of Egypt in Alexandria. Mr Netanyahu said that Israeli troops would withdraw from southern Lebanon if Hezbollah guerrillas were disarmed and the security of northern Israel were guaranteed.

The offer was made to Syria because it is the main power-broker in Lebanon, where it has more than 30,000 troops. Mr Assad seemed angry, however, that the Israeli offer avoided confronting the issue of giving up the Golan Heights captured from Syria in 1967. Damascus wants this area to be returned as a precondition of full peace with Israel. The Syrian leader said: "No one who read the invitation

Bomb denial by woman

Jerusalem: British officials questioned Huda Fudeh, 30, an Israeli-Arab, in a Tel Aviv court about two bomb attacks in 1994 against Jewish targets in London. She denied any involvement with the attacks. (Reuters)

Authorised talks with King Hussein of Jordan regarding the Israeli Government. The meeting followed Mr Arafat's criticism of Mr Netanyahu's decision to lift a freeze on Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, home to more than two million Palestinians.

The two men were due to discuss the settlement issue and Mr Arafat's concerns about Jordan's ambitions for the West Bank, which it ruled from 1950 to 1967.

According to news agencies, Israeli forces fighting against dead and wounded figures were said to have killed 22 soldiers and 100 civilians on a rebel-controlled

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Germany's former communists discover the ills of capitalism

DOES capitalism make you ill? New medical research shows that former East Germans have been sicker since the collapse of communist rule and are picking up physical and mental diseases common to the West.

The popular assumption that East Germans would become healthier after the heavily polluted former communist state was cleaned up has been dashed by researchers in Erfurt and Hamburg. There has been a rapid increase in asthma, hayfever, respiratory diseases and serious allergies. Some cancers — especially those of the breast and colon — have increased in the east, as have a range of stress-related psycholog-

When the Berlin Wall came down, East Germans looked forward to a cleaner, healthier future. But,

Roger Boyes reports, cancers, allergies and respiratory disease are on the increase

ical disorders such as anorexia and clinical depression. Since unification, East Germans have been suffering as never before from haemorrhoids.

Improved diagnosis and better statistics may have boosted the sickness figures but researchers agree that this is only a partial explanation. After the collapse of the Berlin Wall, western research-

ers hurried to the east and set up monitoring teams which took blood samples from young children and recorded the strength of their lungs.

The first findings in 1992 were surprising: despite dirtier water, polluted air and soil that was often poisoned by heavy fertilisers, East German children were more robust than their Western coun-

parts. Now, four years later, the Research Centre for Environment and Health has found that childhood allergies have risen by between 20 and 50 per cent.

Scientists have been proposing various explanations. One possibility is that the communist kindergarten system crammed large numbers of children together while their mothers went to work. Infection spread quickly and this helped to build up the immune systems of the children. Now kindergartens and crèches are disappearing. The women of eastern Germany were the first to join the unemployment queue and find that the cost of childcare takes away most of what they can earn in

part-time work. Thanks in part to advertising campaigns by Western cigarette companies, children in the east have started to smoke at a much earlier age: lung tests on east German 11 to 13-year-olds clearly show a deterioration in health.

Improvements in the standard of living have also had an impact on health. Draughty wooden window frames have been replaced by airtight plastic ones; there are new carpets on the floors, and dust-gathering video recorders on the shelves. "Optimal conditions for the dust mite," says Dr Joachim Herbig.

The most obvious new element in the equation is stress. Unemployment and competitive pres-

sures have led to big increases in psychosomatic illnesses. The Burg Clinic in Thuringia has become one of many eastern hospitals to note the sharp rise in chronic head and back pain, sleep disturbance and psychosis. Reinhard Plassmann, a psychiatrist who practises in East and West Germany, believes that some forms of depression have become four times more common in the east. "Patients say that they can no longer come to grips with life, and that they would like to retire immediately or even die."

Some disorders, such as anorexia, were barely acknowledged in communist times. Other compulsive illnesses — such as gambling

addiction — can be directly traced to the new capitalism because amusement arcades (unknown under the communists) now feature in every city centre. Aids has also hit the East.

It is not all bad news, however. Blood pressure is improving and life expectancy has significantly increased. Providing that the East German male does not get knocked down by a BMW, he can expect to live to about 73. Under the communists his life expectancy would have been three years shorter. A similar trend can be observed in the fast-reforming states of Central Europe.

Body and Mind, page 14

Russians humbled as Chechen rebels storm into Grozny

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

CHECHEN rebel fighters were poised to capture the centre of Grozny, the besieged Chechen capital, yesterday as Russian troops were cut off by guerrillas or driven out of the city in fierce street fighting.

In one of the most humiliating chapters of Russia's disastrous 20-month campaign in the breakaway Caucasus republic, Chechen separatists continued to throw the authorities on the defensive in the second day of a lightning assault.

According to the Interfax news agency, the Russian casualty toll in 48 hours of fighting climbed to 50 troops dead and 200 wounded. No figures were available for the guerrillas, although they said that 22 civilians had died in a retaliatory Russian airstrike on a rebel-held village.

Although heavy fighting made it difficult to obtain an accurate picture, it was clear from local reports that most of central Grozny was in rebel hands as well as the town of Argun, ten miles east, where rebels beat back a Russian armoured column.



Basayev led Chechens' lightning attack on city

Kremlin repeating errors of the tsars

BY THOMAS DE WAAL

ACCOUNTS of the Caucasian war, Russia's long imperial struggle with the mountainous tribes of the Caucasus in the 19th century, contrast the slow and ponderous Russian forces, strong only in weight of numbers, with the nimble ways of the daredevil "mountaineers".

The speed and efficiency of yesterday's raid on Grozny by the Chechen rebels shows up yet again the illusion of Moscow's claim to be in control of Chechnya 18 months after President Yeltsin chose to use force to bring the rebellious region back into line. The guerrillas' lightning attack looks back to a long tradition of horseback raids in which the Chechens terrorised the Cossack settlements and forts in the plains, using surprise to combat the Russians' numerical superiority.

In their turn, the Russians

seem to have learnt nothing since the days of General Aleksei Yermolov in the 1820s; he believed his mission was to fight a whole population, but succeeded only in antagonising the entire Chechen people. Since Mr Yeltsin was re-elected, the Russians have bombed Chechen villages with no regard for civilian suffering. The effect has been only to encourage neutral villagers to join the cause.

The guerrillas will not hope to win permanent control of Grozny. The offensive is designed to illustrate that they cannot be beaten militarily and that the Russians must negotiate seriously if they want a solution. The separatists are most likely to disappear into the hills as soon as serious reinforcements arrive, and wait for the Russians to decide that it is time to start talking about peace.

Leading article, page 17

BY EVA-ANN PRENTICE
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

THE leaders of Serbia and Croatia — the two men most widely blamed for starting the war in the former Yugoslavia — yesterday met for a summit hailed as a leap forward in the normalisation of their relations, but seen by many Western diplomats as a sinister manoeuvre to finalise the partition of Bosnia.

President Milosevic of Serbia and Tudjman of Croatia announced that their countries would establish diplomatic relations at the end of the month. The real motive for the meeting, however, was

believed to have been to pick over the spoils of the Balkan conflict. The meeting, at Vouliagmeni, a seaside resort south of Athens, marked the first official summit between the two since the break-up of the former Yugoslavia in 1991.

Mr Milosevic and Dr Tudjman are believed to have held a summit at Tito's old Karadjordjev hunting lodge in March 1991, weeks before the conflict began, when they were alleged to have discussed the break-up of Yugoslavia and the division of Bosnia between their two states. Belgrade and Zagreb have in the past suggested carving up Bosnia, and both are suspect

ed by the Muslim-led Bosnian Government of planning the partition of the country into Serbian and Croatian zones if, as many fear, the Bosnian elections next month end in chaos.

"It is very, very important that the two leaders have chosen to have this high-profile meeting," said a senior diplomatic source yesterday. "The main subject was to tie up the loose pieces and probably to agree that the Muslim-Croat federation would not be allowed to succeed."

Meanwhile, a party of 36 people from Barcelona yesterday became the first tourists to visit Sarajevo since April 1992.

More than 200,000 coca

Summit revives Bosnia fears

BY GABRIELLA GAMBINI, SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

THE Colombian Government yesterday offered to pay compensation to tens of thousands of coca leaf planters if they burn the fields on which they grow the crop used to make cocaine and opt for food production instead.

The growers say coca is the only crop that gives them enough income to feed their families. Dozens of helicopters donated by the United States have been used to spray the plantations with chemicals, but the producers say that their food crops have also been destroyed.

growers have gathered in the towns of the jungle areas where most of Colombia's cocaine is produced, demanding an end to a crop eradication plan launched by President Samper.

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US anti-terror moves unite friends and foes

By MICHAEL BINION, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

AMERICA'S heavy-handed attempt to impose worldwide sanctions on countries trading with Iran and Libya yesterday ran into a storm of foreign criticism, uniting Washington's closest allies with radical opponents of America.

The D'Amato Bill has succeeded in antagonising even governments normally keen to back Washington and committed to the international fight against terrorism, such as Britain, France, Germany and Japan. Their criticism has deeply embarrassed President Clinton and been used as evidence by Iran to insist that such sanctions will fail.

President Chirac yesterday threatened America with reprisals if French firms are penalised for trading with Iran or Libya, and is now attempting to rally European opposition. Leon Brittan, the EU Trade Commissioner, described the legislation as unacceptable, and said it represented "a clear violation of the principle of extra-territoriality". He told the Italian newspaper *La Stampa* the law was a threat to the European economic system.

The British Government has also voiced its concern and called for a concerted response by the law's opponents — though officials have been careful to moderate the language in which they have criticised the Clinton Administration. More radical foes of

American policy have had no such qualms. China urged Washington to hold talks with Libya and Iran, and said the law was not consistent with international norms.

Russia, which has little investment in Libya but is seeking to expand its trade with Iran especially on nuclear co-operation, was equally outspoken.

"We need co-ordinated practical measures to improve wide anti-terrorist co-operation based on international law, but not unilateral steps contradicting the law," said a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman. Libya's official



America isolated in trying to punish trade with Cuba, as portrayed by Arcadio in Costa Rica's *Tico Times*

Offer to Europe on loopholes

FROM TOM RHODES
IN WASHINGTON

AMERICA offered an olive branch to its European allies yesterday if they entered a co-operative effort to isolate the two state sponsors of terrorism.

The Clinton Administration said that European companies could receive certain relief from a new law, signed by the President earlier this week, which punishes foreign firms investing in the energy sector

of Iran or Libya. Sanctions will affect any company that invests an annual \$40 million (£26 million) or more in oil or gas projects but, as Britain and other countries continued to put strong pressure on Washington, the White House said that certain clauses in the Act allowed the Administration to waive sanctions if allied governments or businesses had a change of heart.

"We have a long-standing policy of attempting to work with our allies to isolate the two regimes in question and that is what we hope to do now," a White House official said.

The Administration hopes that the European Union will not take its protest to the World Trade Organisation, but was confident of victory should that take place.

Under the new law, the President has the authority to waive sanctions on the ground of national interest, can delay their imposition for two successive 90-day periods and suspend sanctions after they have been working for a year.

ain has consistently opposed any attempt by Washington to impose laws affecting British companies or American subsidiaries in Britain. John Major and other G7 leaders reiterated their opposition to this at the Lyons summit in June, and embassies in Washington have been busy lobbying Congress in an attempt to head off the D'Amato Bill.

Some of the toughest criticism has come from Asia, Japan, whose own trade relations with Washington have been marked by acrimony and threats of sanctions and trade wars, was unusually outspoken. Hiroshi Hashimoto, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, said it was "lamentable" that the United States imposed extra-territorial legislation.

This could go against a World Trade Organisation agreement. He said Japan would continue to urge the US to reconsider the law and would decide what action to take in the light of how it was applied.

In Australia, Tim Fischer, the Deputy Prime Minister and Trade Minister, said the country was opposed to any source of terrorism. But it believed the American law was wrong in principle and its practical effect.

Criticism also came from Brazil and the Gulf Arab states, some of which have openly accused Iran of promoting terrorism in their countries.

Some of the allied opposition will be particularly wounded, even from countries that normally give Washington a rough ride. During a meeting of John Kennedy and Jackie Bouvier at a Washington dinner party, their union appears to have been the result of adult social manoeuvring by two ambitious families. Love was a secondary concern, even for the bride and groom.

An American which only months ago demonstrated its enduring affection for "Jackie O", when some of the former First Lady's effects were auctioned for \$35 million (almost £23 million), was presented with the claim that the future President Kennedy demanded that his bride should not be an "experienced voyager" in the sexual sense. Americans

Kennedy book mars image of virtuous bride

FROM QUENTIN LETTS
IN NEW YORK

AMERICA'S "royal" family, the Kennedys, had a taste yesterday of the treatment normally reserved for the House of Windsor.

Lurid details of the personal lives of the late Jacqueline and John Kennedy were published, from descriptions of where the young Jackie Bouvier first made love (in a creaking ascending Paris lift) to the sexual disease that afflicted Kennedy through much of his adult life.

The claims, made in a new book, were given an extensive run in *Vanity Fair* magazine. They included descriptions of snobbery and underhand social plotting at the Bouvier-Kennedy wedding in 1953, of Kennedy confessing to his fiancee that he was a philanderer, and the disclosure that many of the Bouvier family and their friends referred to the Kennedys, who were of Irish descent, as "Micks".

The claims were made by Edward Klein, author of *All Too Human: the Love Story of Jack and Jackie Kennedy*.

He alleges that Jackie Bouvier was physically abused by her mother, who also sabotaged her courtship with a bibulous writer called John Phillips Marquand — the man that Paris left.

The way Klein describes the meeting of John Kennedy and Jackie Bouvier at a Washington dinner party, their union appears to have been the result of adult social manoeuvring by two ambitious families. Love was a secondary concern, even for the bride and groom.

An American which only months ago demonstrated its enduring affection for "Jackie O", when some of the former First Lady's effects were auctioned for \$35 million (almost £23 million), was presented with the claim that the future President Kennedy demanded that his bride should not be an "experienced voyager" in the sexual sense. Americans



Jacqueline Bouvier at Newport, Rhode Island, where she was 1947 debutante of the year

often express horror that Buckingham Palace made certain inquiries about Lady Diana Spencer's romantic past before her marriage to the Prince of Wales, but it now appears the Kennedys went through the same process — although their language was more coarse.

Klein cited former Senator George Smathers, now 82, who described Kennedy's decision to own up to his fiancee about his sexual shenanigans "Jack unloaded." Mr Smathers is quoted as saying, "He confessed everything. She handled it pretty well. She was aware that Jack was a Kennedy."

Jackie's engagement ring was bought for her by her future father-in-law, the scheming Joe Kennedy. Jack Kennedy himself "had no interest in such sentimental things" claimed Klein.

Stephanie Larson, a political science professor and media commentator at Dickinson College, Pennsylvania, said yesterday that the allegations about the Kennedys would be seen by some Americans as "splitting on someone's grave". "Enough is enough," she said.



Kennedy: let his father buy engagement ring

Jail cell searched for crash evidence

BY QUENTIN LETTS

THE New York prison cell of Ramzi Yousef, an alleged Arab terrorist, has been ransacked nightly by guards at the request of authorities investigating the crash of TWA Flight 800.

Mr Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the World Trade Centre bomb in Manhattan, is also suspected of plotting the destruction of Western airliners. His small cell at the Metropolitan Correctional Facility has been "tossed" for any evidence that might help crash investigators. The mattress has been turned upside down and his few belongings have been examined.

Last month's TWA crash off Long Island, which killed 230 people, has still not been described as a terrorist act, despite widespread suspicions of a bomb in the aircraft's cargo hold. Less than a fifth of the wreckage of the jumbo jet has been retrieved from the sea, but some of it has been in relatively good condition. Glass instruments and dials from the cockpit were found intact, as was a light bulb from the staircase beside the first class cabin, underneath which a bomb may well have been placed.

The bodies of 195 victims have been recovered. It is possible that the remaining 25 fell or were sucked out of the plane before it hit the water. Suitcases from the flight have been found six miles from the site of the main wreckage, and police divers were yesterday searching further afield for the missing bodies.

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Dole 'plays politics with marriage'

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON



Bob Dole and his wife Elizabeth: the couple "communicate by phone and memo", an American magazine claims

mus and Easter," *Vanity Fair* reported. "One day in December 1970 he walked upstairs and announced simply, 'I want out.'

The Post reported that Mr Dole, then Republican party chairman, consulted President Nixon about the likely fallout from his divorce and strove to minimise the embarrassment. He had Phyllis file for a divorce that he had initiated. A friendly Kansas judge granted it after hours, so no reporters were present and there was no public record of the testimony.

Mr Dole has highlighted his tough Kansas childhood and recovery from near-fatal war wounds during this campaign, but never speaks of his 1972 divorce. Phyllis was an occupational therapist he met during his recovery in 1948. Yesterday's article both recounted her tireless support for her disabled husband as he studied law and began his political career, and how Mr Dole's obsession with politics after reaching Washington destroyed their marriage.

In the last year of the 23-year marriage, Senator Dole had dinner with his wife and child only twice — on Christ-

Phyllis, now remarried and living in Kansas, told the Post she was "stunned" by the suddenness of the break-up. She believed the marriage could have been saved. "I filed for divorce at his insistence . . .

He pretty much ignores her . . . and that's exactly the same thing that happened in his first marriage?

The way I was raised people didn't divorce," *Vanity Fair* reported that she "got no child support, only minimal alimony and her furniture".

The magazine further reported that Mr Dole had meanwhile employed a beauti-

ful model named Phyllis Wells in his Kansas City office who could not type and mainly took phone calls from the senator. "He would spend the night at her house," another employee told the magazine.

She was just absolutely gorgeous . . . there's no question that he was seeing her prior to being divorced," said David Owen, an old but estranged Kansas friend of Mr Dole.

In 1975 Mr Dole married Elizabeth, an ambitious 39-

year-old White House aide who later served in the Bush and Reagan Cabinets. A former adviser to both Doles told *Vanity Fair* they were "attracted to each other, but it was more of a business association and that's certainly what it's evolved into". A senior Dole campaign adviser called it a "very separated marriage". Mr Owen said: "He pretty much ignores her . . . Dole has basically reverted to the loner that he is. That's exactly the same thing that happened in his first marriage."

The magazine claimed the Doles "communicate by phone and memo", spent their twentieth wedding anniversary in different cities, and shared no mutual passions beyond politics.

Muslim
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out in cold on

The judges at Nuremberg believed his story. But did he convince himself? And could he convince Gitta Sereny?

ALBERT SPEER: His Battle With Truth GITTA SERENY

THE BOOK YOU HAVE TO READ

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A blind eye from Nelson Mandela

The ANC 'miracle' is reaching very few, writes Philip Powell

Visiting Britain shortly after President Mandela's successful visit, I was soon made aware that after a period of indifference, he had achieved only a momentary rekindling of interest in the affairs of South Africa.

How quickly things have returned to what they were! After the relative success of South Africa's first democratic election in 1994, apartheid was successfully relegated to the rubbish heap of history along with the easily understood morality play of black/white conflict. South Africa is no longer centre stage in world politics. The convolutions of its post-apartheid problems defy easy categorisation. With the exception of a brief mention of the sacking of the outspoken ANC Deputy Minister, Bantu Holomisa, and successes in the Atlanta Olympics, South Africa has not been making the news.

It has long been a reality of African politics that conflict and even genocide is largely ignored when committed by Africans against Africans. What made South Africa so different in the past, and galvanised popular sentiment, was that a white minority of European origin was perpetuating the horrors.

State repression in the KwaZulu-Natal province of South Africa by an ANC-led government against its black political rivals — with its human rights abuses, torture and assassination — is often every bit as brutal as the excesses of the old regime. But 22 unarmed people shot by the South African Police Services in the KwaZulu township of Wembezi did not make news in Britain. Political commentators chose to ignore the danger signs coming from South Africa during Mandela's recent visit, and preferred to popularise a romantic notion of South Africa as one of Africa's success stories, the "rainbow nation" of Bishop Desmond Tutu led by a magnanimous and benign senior statesman. In reality, it is a country in continuing crisis.

There is a desperate impulse on the part of many in this country finally to close the chapter of colonialism and to indulge in a cathartic, cleansing celebration, rather than to reflect reality.

The magnanimity of the ANC extends only to its former white adversaries, which is perhaps what makes it so popular in Britain. The ANC's ability to work closely with the National Party and publicly to eulogise the ultra-right Freedom Front leader General Constand Viljoen contrasts strongly with the treatment accorded the predominantly black Inkatha Freedom Party, led by Chief Buthelezi. The killing of Inkatha members and assassinations of its leaders have continued unabated since the election of an ANC government. To date, some 428 Inkatha office-bearers have been murdered, but official enthusiasm in the investigations has cooled significantly since the ANC took control of the South African Police. To date only some 3 per cent of these murders have led to prosecutions.

The criminal slaughter of Julius during a march in central Johannesburg on the eve of the 1994 election, the Shell House massacre, was compounded when President Mandela publicly took responsibility for having given the orders to the ANC's security department to gun down the marchers. I sat in the benches of the Senate opposite him on the day he made this startling confession, knowing that there was little or no chance of the killers ever

Outrages committed by black on black do not make the news

trade union aristocracy, which does not represent the majority of workers. The closed shop has been resurrected. South Africa's labour legislation operates as a non-tariff trade barrier against foreign investment by the subsidiaries of foreign corporations, and makes a mockery of efforts to encourage inward investment.

South Africa's re-emergence into the family of nations has starkly indicated the ANC's political values. President Mandela has lavished praise on Sinn Fein's Gerry Adams, Libya's Gaddafi and Cuba's Castro. The ANC, sadly, feels it has debts to pay to its former revolutionary allies, which fail to show the mature and balanced leadership among developing countries that the world community now expects.

What is needed for the interests of ordinary South Africans to prevail is a more hard-headed, honest approach, which applies the same standards of moral, economic and ethical standards to the new Government in Pretoria as it applied to the old regime. Investment, aid and participation need to be tied to the Government's willingness to clean up its act, to get rid of its murderous friends from the past, and to honour its agreements. Human rights abuse should meet the same international condemnation whether it is the murder of Biko, the shooting at Sharpeville or the more recent Shell House massacre. If the international community fails to come to terms with the fallibility of the ANC and its leadership, South Africans will continue to suffer.

Senator Philip Powell is Inkatha spokesman on defence and intelligence, and serves on the Parliamentary Defence Committee.

Thumb period

CAMBRIDGESHIRE police have been called in to help with the authentication of a drawing which its owner claims is by Picasso. Mark Harris, a Brighton-based dealer and *soi-disant* art historian, bought the drawing six years ago in Ealing from a flat once owned by a Pole who claimed to be Picasso's illegitimate daughter.

Harris' long struggle to have it declared an original has now taken him to the Cambridge Constabulary Fingerprint Bureau and their crack finger man, Martin Leadbetter. Now Leadbetter is concentrating on a fingerprint next to a Picasso signature on the drawing.

"Scholars won't tell you anything," says Harris. "Some try to rubbish it. I've had a number of letters from Picasso's son, saying I'm in danger of the gravest consequences should I put it on the market."

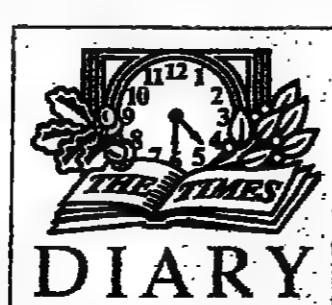
Harris now needs an original document with Picasso's thumbprint, but says neither the Tate nor the Picasso estate is playing ball. He thinks that they both fear that if his drawing were authenticated, many more would emerge. so

diluting the highly lucrative Picasso market.

Leadbetter says it makes a difference from stolen car radios. "You can see the right thumb print with the naked eye," he says. "It's a detective story in its own right."

Adding to Dorset's rustic cacophony recently have been the

Dab man, Leadbetter



strains of Serenading Auntie, a cassette rumoured to increase the milk yields of dairy herds. According to my man by the churns, the cows enjoy the music so much that they have eaten two copies of the tape. To put off the rogue chompers, he has bought a CD instead.

All change

PEACE in the former Yugoslavia has its dividend for Lowe Bell, the PR company headed by Sir Tim Bell. It has recently been advising NatWest, which is helping to restructure the international debt of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the rump state consisting of Serbia and Montenegro.

Bell-watchers, however, recall

that in 1992 he was close to Crown Prince Alexander of Yugoslavia, advising him on how best to promote his image back home with an eye on a restored monarchy. Bell was widely suspected to be the hand behind the Crown Prince's 1992 visit to Belgrade, which came complete with crying peasants and martial music.

As Britannia left Cowes for the last time yesterday, one figure was missing from the deck. Sophie Rhys-Jones, who has been staying aboard the Royal Yacht for the last few days, missed its departure at 9.00am by less than an hour. She had to leave at 8.15am to attend a charity race in Coventry. On her arrival there, she said: "I felt like the Milk Tray man getting off the boat. The water was very choppy, the barge was a very rough ride."

Royal pardon

NEWS reaches me of an embarrassing incident during Prince Michael of Kent's presentation of the Queen's Cup at Cowes Week. Fluent in Russian, the Prince spurted out the language as if it were his mother tongue when introduced to the skipper of the Russian boat. But his words fell on deaf ears. The

skipper curled his face up and in perfect English inquired: "What language is that?" Unbeknown to the Prince, he was talking to a Frenchman. Pierre Fehlmann, chairman of the Grand Mistral race, who was standing in for the Russian skipper.

Acting up

AS Arnold Schwarzenegger's inflated frame landed in London for the premiere of his new film *Eraser*

WILLIAM HILL BETTING EXTRA TERRESTRIAL LIFE 21.75

Cast: Thompson. "A tenner on the Tories to win the election"

yesterday, there was talk of an intriguing new collaboration for his next project. It is believed that negotiations are under way for him to star in a Second World War drama, *With Wings of Eagles*, under the direction of Lord Attenborough.

Neither Attenborough's camp nor Paramount Films will comment on the project, in which Schwarzenegger will play a German officer who refuses to kill prisoners. It all sounds surprisingly bloodless for the Terminator, but right up the street of Attenborough, who started his directorial career with the anti-war polemic *Oh What a Lovely War!*

Eventful

SOCIAL rather than equestrian competition is dominating the Dublin Horse Show. Tomorrow night three different balls will jostle to be best. The intensity of the contest between the 62-year-old Louth Ball and two newcomers is an indication of the show's reinvigorated prestige. After years in the doldrums, it is regaining the cachet which once made the Irish equivalent of Henley or Goodwood.

The Horse Show opened at the Royal Dublin Society in Ballsbridge yesterday, to the dark mur-

ordinary things, if only they are prepared to resort to violence. That was always the difference between England and the Continent: while English radicals were content to reclaim the streets — at most inflicting damage on property — European radicals built barricades and started shooting.

Which brings us to another form of traffic disruption closer to home. Readers will need no reminding that we are in the middle of the marching season in Northern Ireland. Now superficially there is no difference between a bunch of cyclists cluttering up a street and a bunch of Orangemen doing the same. Except that behind every Orange march there lies the implicit threat of a resumption of loyalist violence. If the Ulstermen were only interested in "reclaiming the streets" they marched down, I doubt we would pay them the slightest attention.

The moral of all this for the cranks on cycles is clear. You need to change your tactics. Either try persuading people that cycling is a realistic mode of transport in London. Or — forgive me for sounding like an *agent provocateur* — start shooting motorists. Though I warn you: those little hats you wear will not be much use if we start fighting back.

The author is a fellow of Jesus College, Oxford.

Niall Ferguson argues that direct action is futile self-indulgence

Two wheels good, four wheels bad

in the 1980s and 1990s in which such forms of "radical protest" and "direct action" will figure prominently, just as rick-burnning, Luddism, Swing riots and the suffragettes figure prominently in today's history textbooks.

The reason for this is simple: such solemn bearded types (and their solemn, spotty students) are precisely the sort of cranks who join groups like "Reclaim the Streets". And ever since 1968, they have set out to show that their hobby is a worthwhile way of carrying on. In their eyes, reclaiming the streets is part of a noble tradition of "grassroots activism".

Now as any football hooligan will confirm, it is fun to reclaim the streets. But to the crank there is something morally unsatisfactory about this. To do something purely for fun, in the eyes of these latter-day Puritans, is deeply suspect. Hence the need for a cause.

Admittedly, as causes go, "bicycle rights" is unpromising, not to

say silly. But it does have the one vital ingredient which is indispensable to a good crank cause: like the Calvinism from which it derives, it divides the world into the Elect (cyclists) and the Damned (drivers). Of, if you prefer, like the Marxism from which it is also descended, it posits a class war in the sphere of transport.

I have to admit that there are times when I envy the cranks. It must be very consoling to feel that sense of self-righteousness tinged with hatred for the enemy as you pedal along. But there is a problem which I am obliged to point out. *It doesn't work*. Such forms of protest never achieve their stated objectives, no matter what the social historians would like to believe. For in a parliamentary system there are only two ways of achieving (or preventing) legislative changes, and "reclaiming the streets" does neither.

The first way is to persuade a majority of members of Parliament and/or voters. The last way of doing this is by disrupting London traffic, for there are few groups of people more likely to be MPs — unless, that is, you are in August, when they are all in Chianti, in which case there are few groups less likely to give a damn.

As for voters, this is one class struggle in which the oppressed are so comprehensively outnumbered by the oppressors that protest is simply futile. Four per cent of us go to work by bike: 66 per cent by car.

So the effect of yesterday's protest, if any, will have been not to increase the likelihood of legislation being enacted to promote the use of bicycles, but to reduce it by leaving the political majority irritated or indifferent.

There is, however, a second way of achieving your ends: and that is by killing people or indeed, being killed. Terrorism works. This is the lesson of the past 200 years. Radical minorities can achieve quite extra-

decided to do so. Some people think that they have already done so, by way of UFOs or crop circles. If they have refrained, they may have thought that their advanced civilisation would be damaging to our present state of barbarism. As a species, we may need the experience of childhood if we are ever to become adult. Or these advanced beings may at some point feel forced to intervene to save us from the technological self-destruction which is one of the possibilities of the next millennium.

The Mars discovery confirms Pope's splendid intuition, which he shared with Berkeley: "See, through this air, this ocean and this earth, / All nature quick, and bursting into birth." It extends this principle of life to the "continuously creative nature of reality". It does not prove that this is, as Pope, Berkeley, Bergson, and William James believed, a spiritual force, rather than the random selective mechanism in which the neo-Darwinists believe. My own feeling is that we should know if we were machines: if only because generations of selection would have made for greater uniformity. The world would be a smoother place. The extraordinary thing about nature, including human nature, is the proliferation of forms beyond apparent necessity.

A few weeks ago, I bought a couple of William James manuscripts, a letter and a postcard which he wrote to Laurence J. L. the editor of the *Hibbert Journal*, to which he contributed. The postcard, dated May 10, 1910, was written from Paris, where other letters show that James was seriously ill with heart trouble; he died only three months later. It contains one striking phrase: "The irrationality and excessiveness in some places with insufficiency in others which God's handiwork shows."

Plato believed that the demiurge which made the Universe worked on the principle that if anything could be created, it ought to be. Berkeley believed in a spirit or invisible fire with a continuous creative function throughout the universe. Bergson called that the *elan vital*. Christians have sometimes believed that this power was God, or that it was an attribute of God. William James, in his last months, was struck by the irregularity of its operation. Mars, which seems to be an abandoned laboratory of life, fits in with all these ideas. If we look at the Universe as the new discovery suggests it may be, we shall probably be nearer the truth if we choose to be neo-Platonists rather than neo-Darwinists.

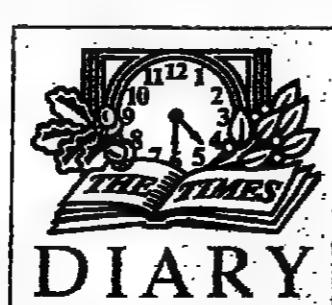


Haya Bint Al Husain

THE GUNS

HARD

Debate on the...



strains of Serenading Auntie, a cassette rumoured to increase the milk yields of dairy herds. According to my man by the churns, the cows enjoy the music so much that they have eaten two copies of the tape. To put off the rogue chompers, he has bought a CD instead.

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Bell-watchers, however, recall

John H. Thompson

PH-S



SIGNAL FROM SPACE

Man may not be as alone in the Universe as he thought

The immensity of the heavens has always made man feel small. "The eternal silence of these infinite spaces terrifies me" said Blaise Pascal, and the sentiment has not diminished since we discovered that space is even vaster and emptier than Pascal imagined. So large an ocean, so small a ship: humanity's voyage has seemed to offer little prospect of companionship.

From today such ideas are obsolete. American scientists believe they have the evidence to prove that life is not the sole creation of the Earth but that it also evolved independently on Mars. The arguments they presented in a Washington press conference last night need careful analysis but if proved right will be among the most significant of this century, or any other. For they show what sober analysts have long believed, that mankind is not alone in the Universe. Pascal's infinite spaces may contain an infinite number of other civilisations, sufficient to satisfy every taste.

Once the idea of a benevolent Creator is abandoned, such conclusions are mathematically inevitable. If life emerged from the primordial soup by a series of steps that turned chemistry into biology, molecules into proteins, and single-celled amoebas into Einstein, there is no reason to suppose that the process was unique to our planet. There are a hundred billion stars in our own galaxy, the Milky Way, and a billion more galaxies lying beyond it, so the odds have always favoured life emerging somewhere else. The recent discovery of planets in orbit around some of those stars, though not unexpected, has sharpened the sense of inevitability.

Some sceptics remain. When this argument was put to the Italian physicist Enrico Fermi, he responded: "OK, but where is everybody?" If the Universe teems with life, why is it that we still remain ignorant of our fellows from other worlds? The answer

given by proponents is that we have only just begun to listen. Given the laws of physics, actually visiting distant stars is likely to prove impossible, but communicating with them is a practicable proposition. The first attempts to search for extra-terrestrial intelligence date back only a few decades, and nothing significant has yet been heard. But this proves nothing.

On the evidence presented yesterday, the form of life that evolved on Mars was never competent to send any signals anyway. Each step in the evolution of life requires the right environment and that of Mars was appropriate only for the very first stages. Life emerged there, perhaps, but was snuffed out before it could develop into higher organisms. Logically, there may be hundreds or thousands of planets that fall into this category for every one that turns into an Earth and produces intelligent life, but the mere fact that the first few faltering steps had been taken on Mars would increase the chances that other planets will have gone all the way.

Great scientific developments seldom spring fully-formed into the world, but rather creep out piecemeal. Only in retrospect is it usually possible to identify a turning point; even the greatest discoveries, such as nuclear fission or the structure of DNA, take a few years to make their importance felt. The discovery of life on Mars — if so it proves — could well be an exception. To those raised on the little green monsters of science fiction, the grainy pictures and complex arguments presented by the Nasa team are likely to come as a disappointment. They are not quite what we have been led to expect. But the temptation to dismiss the claims on that account should be resisted; these tiny fragments from the red planet may be the harbingers of discoveries that will profoundly alter our perceptions of the Universe and our place in it.

THE GUNS OF GROZNY

Chechen rebels set out to spoil Yeltsin's inaugural celebrations

President Yeltsin has described the war in Chechnya as "Russia's biggest problem". On the eve of his ceremonial inauguration tomorrow, the Chechen rebels have driven home in the most dramatic, and therefore most humiliating, fashion the political hazards of letting it drift. On Tuesday, for the second time in five months, Chechen fighters stormed into the heart of the capital, Grozny, where they have surrounded the buildings housing the widely detested pro-Russian administration of Doku Zavgavayev. Yet again, they appear to have caught the Russian command off guard — even though their Trojan Horse strategy of infiltrating the city as civilians and heading for pre-empted munitions caches was so little a secret to Grozny's remaining civilian population that many of them left town last week.

The Chechen forces cannot hold Grozny for long and do not expect to. They do not need to, because by holding up to ridicule the boasts of Russian commanders that the rebels are finished as an organised fighting force, they have made their political point. They have also reminded Russians that the poor intelligence, fighting capability, discipline and morale of Russian forces in Chechnya remain, after all these months, astonishingly far from being remedied. Their avowed aim is to get Moscow back to the negotiating table. Encouragingly, Aleksandr Lebed, Mr Yeltsin's security chief, appeared yesterday to have taken the point.

If Moscow puts sufficient energy and imagination into negotiation, there is more chance of progress than there was in the lifetime of Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Chechen leader who launched the rebellion. His successor, Zelimkhan Yandarbayev, is a good deal more pragmatic, as is the relatively moderate Chechen military com-

mander, Aslan Maskhadov. Moscow for its part is genuinely desperate for a solution and has been trawling through every international precedent — even talking, somewhat improbably, about a "Puerto Rican" solution — that would preserve the façade of sovereignty and some essential element of strategic control.

Russia will not grant independence and the rebels refuse to be part of Russia. The trick is to establish a lasting truce while searching for a formula that enables both sides to emerge with some honour. But neither side agrees on where to start.

A deal was reached in Nazran on June 10 with the aid of Tim Guldmann, the dynamic Swiss who heads the Chechnya mission of the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe. It gave Mr Yeltsin something to show Russians before the first round of the presidential elections. But it collapsed days after the second round. This was no surprise; its targets for "demilitarising" Chechnya were patently unrealistic. The "peace convoy" of negotiators was attacked as it returned to Grozny and both Russian and Chechen forces all but ignored it.

Mr Lebed, a constant critic of the war from the sidelines, is under corresponding pressure to end it. He has called for a congress of representatives from all over Chechnya, including religious as well as political leaders. That could be the first step towards sidelining the hated Mr Zavgavayev, in favour of an acceptable Chechen figurehead. But it is also uncomfortably reminiscent of abortive Russian attempts to find an "internal" solution, short of withdrawing its troops, to the war in Afghanistan. The very fact that the purpose of this week's raid on Grozny was claimed to be political hints at a new flexibility. But it will be a long haul.

HARD CHOICES

Debate on abortion is difficult, but necessary

When private dilemmas become public property the individual at the centre rarely benefits. The young woman bearing twins whose decision to abort one foetus has pained the nation's conscience will have suffered difficulties enough without her position becoming a matter of general debate. It is to be hoped that she, and her child, will suffer no greater scrutiny than has so far been thrust on them. The manner in which her case was brought to wider attention reflects badly on the doctor, Professor Phillip Bennet, in whom she placed her trust. But it has prompted a bracing re-evaluation of difficult questions.

No abortion is ever undertaken lightly. The 1967 Abortion Act was tightly framed to limit suffering, and balance wrongs. Before any abortion can be granted two doctors must agree that the physical or mental health of a mother or any of her children would be put at risk if the operation did not take place. As time has passed, morals have changed and technology has altered. The criteria set down in 1967 have come to be interpreted more flexibly. But there has been a broad presumption that NHS doctors would consent to abortions only if their refusal would result in significant harm. Of course, private clinics have been prepared to conduct abortions in the right circumstances as a last resort for those with the resources.

There has always been an element of iniquity in the thought that delicate moral decisions can be influenced by economic

considerations. And that is one of the reasons why this week's case has provoked such a reaction. That the straitened circumstances of the mother should dictate that one twin be aborted while the other lives provokes deep unease. The attempts by anti-abortion activists to influence the mother by offering her money was not, in itself, objectionable but it did jar with many because it reinforced the impression that human life was being traded like a commodity. That the decision had already been taken only made it more poignant.

There are specific difficulties in the case publicised this week. The surviving twin will be a living reminder for the mother of what has been lost and may itself suffer trauma. Set against that, the burden to a single mother of bringing up two new babies alongside an older child could considerably strain her capacity to provide the best care. Adoption or fostering may seem attractive alternatives but neither is without emotional cost.

Nothing is served by condemnation; and no guide to action can be framed for every circumstance. But some lessons may be drawn from this case. However well-intended, it is dangerous to conduct debates on medical ethics by reference to current patients. However pressing the material circumstances, they should not distort medical decisions. And, however passionate campaigners feel, their energies are best directed at encouraging prior restraint, and providing comfort for those who do not heed them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Individual freedoms and the ownership of handguns

From Mr Paul Pearce-Kelly

Sir, Although respecting Magnus Linklater's measured response to the public outrage at the Home Affairs Select Committee's rejection of a ban on handgun ownership ("Tears must not blind our MP", August 1), I stand full-square behind the parents of the Dunblane victims in their demand for the Government to bring into law a total ban on the civilian ownership of such weapons.

We were assured by the Government that sufficient control measures were in place after Hungerford. Subsequent events have tragically illustrated just how empty those assurances were.

We must face the fact that the only way of preventing the next gun-related outrage physically to remove as many of these weapons from our society as is humanly possible. Mr Linklater's concern that such a ban would drive gun-ownership "underground" says little for the character of the 57,000 registered gun-owners in question.

I feel it is also right to ban the possession of replica weapons, which are increasingly being used, even by children, in crime. Victims threatened with these replicas can be as traumatised by them as by real weapons.

Yours sincerely,
P. PEARCE-KELLY,
31 Feltham Road, Ashford, Middlesex.
August 1.

He made it clear that the real prob-

lem lay with illegally held firearms, that further restrictions on legitimate shooters could not be expected to have any significant impact on the use of firearms in crime, that thefts of firearms usually take place in the course of theft of other property, and that there is no evidence that firearms are urged.

Sir James, until recently the chairman of the ACPO group concerned with firearms and armed crime, can be expected to know what he is talking about.

Would somebody therefore please explain to me why owners of legally held firearms are continually pilloried, and how armed crime will disappear if such owners are deprived of their possessions?

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE HOWELL,
102 Downlands Way, South Wonston,
Winchester, Hampshire.
August 1.

From Mr Stephen Mulliner

Sir, The future over the Home Affairs Select Committee report on handgun ownership may be uncertain but much of it, in my opinion, is also hysterical and dangerous. The manner in which democratic decisions are reached is important, particularly where long-standing individual rights are to be curtailed. It is wrong for Parliament to be seen to be steam-rollered by minority views.

I do not own a handgun and have no wish to do so. However, if law-abiding citizens are to lose certain freedoms, common sense as well as justice requires that their concerns should be heard with respect. If the rights of 57,000 people, the great majority of whom are the epitome of responsibility, are to be sacrificed, let it be on the altar of reason. Waiting for the outcome of the Cullen inquiry is essential.

The silence of the civil liberties lob-

by is deafening. I believe that the liberal elite is, on this issue, giving uncritical endorsement of "majority opinion", which it so firmly rejects in relation to capital punishment and homosexuality.

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN MULLINER,
Witherslack,
Weydown Road, Haslemere, Surrey.
August 1.

From Mr Walter Sweeney, MP for Vale of Glamorgan (Conservative)

Sir, As a member of the Home Affairs Select Committee on handguns, I was surprised and disappointed that on August 1 you and other media gave extensive coverage to our report, which is not due to be published until August 13. The details provided must therefore be based on a leak or speculation, rather than on the actual contents of a published report.

Your characterisation of me and the other Conservative members of the committee as "rebels" shows a misunderstanding of the role and nature of select committees of the House of Commons.

Members of these committees are not under any political Whip; they are expected to take evidence, weigh that evidence and present their conclusions without fear or favour. They normally try to reach a unanimous conclusion, but it is not unusual for minority views to be expressed.

Sometimes such divisions happen to be on party lines, but they may also be on cross-party lines, or even confined to an individual. I resent the implication that any of our members were excessively influenced by either the gun lobby, the anti-gun lobby or any party-political pressure.

Yours faithfully,
WALTER SWEENEY,
House of Commons.
August 2.

Can zoos help save wild animal lives?

From Sir Christopher Lever

Sir, Colin Tudge ("Captive breeding is their only hope", July 29) argues for the captive breeding of threatened animals in zoos.

To suggest that the world's increasing human population could level out in the next century, and might even begin to fall back to present levels in the next 500 to 1,000 years, is mere speculation; and to suggest that our task in the third millennium should be to help threatened species through this "demographic winter" by captive breeding, with the intention of re-establishing them in the wild 500 to 1,000 years hence, is pure fantasy.

Mr Tudge states that "populations of wild animals cannot survive unless they contain at least 500 individuals".

This is simply untrue. There are numerous examples of species that have survived in the wild for many years with very much smaller populations. Nor is it true that "we cannot say how much it costs to keep rhinos safely in the wild, because this has not yet been done". There are a number of sanctuaries in Africa in which both black and white rhinos have bred successfully, and for which detailed costings are available.

Zoos and their protagonists attempt to justify their existence by extravagant claims of reintroducing captive bred species to the wild, but most zoos have a very poor record in this respect. Of the 5,929 species listed in the 1994 IUCN (World Conservation Union) Red List of Threatened Animals, only a very few have been bred in zoos, and of these only a tiny fraction have been successfully reintroduced to the wild.

A far more practical solution to the problem of threatened species is the conservation of wild habitats and the animals they contain. One of the best ways of achieving this is by CAMPFIRE (Community Area Management Programmes for Indigenous Resources) projects, such as those in Zimbabwe, whereby local rural communities are encouraged to regard wild animals as a cash-generation resource to be protected from poaching, human encroachment and agricultural development alike.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER LEVER,
Newell House, Winkfield, Berkshire.
August 5.

After Atlanta

From Miss Rachel Carruthers

Sir, I am not in favour of government funds supporting athletes (letters, August 1, 2, 6); there are many other more pressing domestic needs. I would therefore ask Baroness Chalker to review our overseas aid allocations and perhaps reconsider that destined for countries which hitherto have justifiably attracted our support but choose to fund their athletes as a priority ahead of other more fundamental tasks.

Britain's poor sporting performance is certainly not a national crisis requiring government intervention. Goodness, there are numerous truly critical matters, the lamentable consequence of which can be laid at this Government's door.

Yours faithfully,
RACHEL CARRUTHERS,
241 Bodley Road, Ley Hill,
Chesham, Buckinghamshire.
August 6.

Cabbies' hours

From Mr Kenneth Peter, FCIT

Sir, Mr Peter Gibson (letter, August 2) gives self-employment as a reason why licensed taxi-drivers are not subject to any restrictions on drivers' hours. A sizeable number of the many hundreds of thousands of licensed lorry and bus drivers are also self-employed. They are subject to the same drivers' hours and records requirements as their wage-earning colleagues. There may well be good reasons why cabbies are exempt from such requirements, but surely self-employed drivers cannot be one of them?

Yours faithfully,
K. PETER
(Traffic Commissioner, 1976-86);
Westgate Cottage, High Street,
Thornham, Hunstanton, Norfolk.
August 2.

Yours, puzzled

From Mr Paul Downes

Sir, Is there a polite way, other than buying two copies or cutting it out of the paper, to dissuade house guests from attacking *The Times* crossword before the host gets a chance?

I am Sir, yours etc,
PAUL DOWNES,
Garstons, Heytesbury,
Wiltshire, August 7.



COURT CIRCULAR

HM YACHT BRITANNIA
August 7: The Queen this afternoon travelled to Portsmouth and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire (Mrs Mary Fagan) and the Lord Mayor of

Portsmouth (Councillor Mark Hancock). Her Majesty afterwards embarked in *HMY Britannia* and, escorted by *HMS Battleaxe* (Commander Allan Adair RN), sailed for Scotland.

Today's royal engagements

The Duke of Edinburgh, Patron of the Outward Bound Trust, will visit Outward Bound Eskdale, Eskdale Green, Cumbria, at 10.10.

Dinner

Royal Over-Seas League
Mr Robert Newell, Director-General of the Royal Over-Seas League, was the host at a dinner held last night at Over-Seas House, St James's, to bid farewell to Mr Serge April, Deputy High Commissioner for Canada, and Mrs April.

Church of Scotland

Induction
The Rev Norman Drummond to Kilmuir with Stenochill.

Translations
The Rev Alister H. Gray from Garvald & Morham with Haddington West to Lochgilphead.

The Rev Barry Knight from Sandringham & Aithringst with Walls to Colvend Southwick & Kirkbean.

Retirements
The Rev John W.M. Cameron from Liberton, Edinburgh.

The Rev W. James L. Galbraith from Kilcrehen & Dalavich with Muckairn.

The Rev James Heriot from Brightons.

The Rev John Scott from St Fillan's, Aberdeenshire.

Today's birthdays

Princess Beatrice of York is 8 years old today.

Professor Jack Baldwin, chemist; SS; Mr Keith Barron, actor; 52; Mr Dennis Canavan, MP; 54; Lord Chapple, 75; Dr Michael Clark, MP, 61; Viscount Combermere, 67; the Earl of Donoughmore, 69; Lord Hayhoe, 71; Mr Dustin Hoffman, actor, 59; Lieutenant-General Sir David House, 74; Professor Sir Laurence Hunter, chairman, Police Negotiating Board, 62; Mr P.H. Lapping, Headmaster.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jacques de Beauvois, theologian, Rouen, 1653; Francis Hutcheson, philosopher, Armathwaite, 1694; William Bateson, biologist, Whitby, 1861; P.A.M. Dirac, physicist, Nobel laureate 1933, Bristol, 1902; Andy Warhol, painter, Pittsburgh, 1931.

DEATHS: Thomas à Kempis, theologian, Agnetenberg, The Netherlands, 1471; George Canning, Prime Minister 1827, London, 1827; Thomas Crofton Croker, antiquary, London, 1854; Lucia Mathews, (Mme Vestris), actress, London, 1856; Robert Moffat, missionary, Leigh, Surrey, 1883; Jacob Burckhardt, historian, Basle, 1897; Anton Denikin, commander of the anti-Bolshevik forces in the Russian Civil War 1918-20; Ann Arbor, Michigan, 1947; Nicholas Monsarrat, novelist, London, 1979.

The English Poor Law Act was passed, 1834.

The Great Train Robbery - £2.4 million stolen from the Glasgow-London train at Cheddington, Buckinghamshire, 1963.

President Nixon resigned as a result of the Watergate affair, 1974.

John McCarthy was released from captivity in Beirut after 1,943 days, 1991.

BIRTHS

FRANCIS/CHARLES - On July 27th, 1996, at the Matilda Hospital, Brixton, London, to Charles (née Green) and Gavin, a wonderful son, Thomas Dalmatian, 7lb 10oz.

FRANCIS/CHARLES - On July 29th, 1996, to Julie and Michael, a son, Dominic, another daughter, Georgia Rose.

COLINS - On July 26th, 1996, at the Matilda Hospital, Brixton, London, to Dominic, another daughter, Georgia Rose.

FRANCIS/CHARLES - On July 30th, 1996, to Julie and Michael, a son, Dominic, another daughter, Georgia Rose.

COLINS - On July 28th, 1996, to Julie and Michael, a son, Dominic, another daughter, Georgia Rose.

FRANCIS/CHARLES - On July 30th, 1996, to Julie and Michael, a son, Dominic, another daughter, Georgia Rose.

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OBITUARIES

RAYMOND O'MALLEY

Raymond O'Malley, University Lecturer in Education at Cambridge, 1961-76, died on July 25 aged 86. He was born on August 15, 1909.

ONE of the early pupils of F. R. Leavis at Cambridge, Raymond O'Malley was one of that committed group of educators for whom, in the celebrated words of Keats, "English ought to be kept up". Through teaching posts at Dartington Hall School before the war and at Cambridge after it, as well as through his work for *Scrutiny*, his membership of the editorial board of *The Use of English* and his own publications, he propagated the idea that the study of English and its literature was at the very heart of the civilising process. Like Leavis, he believed that English (as opposed to Classics) should be the cornerstone of university studies in this country.

He produced a number of works in harness with Denis Thompson, the founder of the periodical *The Use of English* (under its original title *English in Schools*). Yet one of his most interesting books, *One-Horse Farm* which appeared in 1949, had, ostensibly at least, nothing to do with the weighty preoccupations of the Leavis school of critics.

At the outbreak of war, because of his pacifism — always robustly expressed — O'Malley had to give up his teaching post at Dartington and, like many conscientious objectors, was ordered to work on the land, as an alternative to going to prison. This he chose not to do in the lush pastures of Devon; he elected instead to till a small croft in the Highlands of Scotland, at Achbeg near the Kyle of Lochalsh. Even by Highland standards, such a farm in a remote valley whose poor soil was often at the mercy of the torrential downpours which afflict the region was at the very margins of a region whose agriculture was, at best, at mere subsistence level.

One-Horse Farm recounts the story of how he and his first wife, Dorothy, whom he had married in 1936, triumphed over, first, their own ignorance and then the hostility of the elements and the hard-favoured land. Since the rugged terrain precluded the use of modern farm implements, tillage was achieved mainly by man or horse power. Hay and the cereal crop were mown with a scythe and the latter was threshed with a stick.

Yet, though *One-Horse Farm* is an apparently unvarnished account of the daily struggle for existence seen through O'Malley's eyes, the experience came to have a philosophical dimension, as the man of 20th-century sensibility and education accepted the challenge of plowing a centuries-old mode of husbandry. The book gave rise to considerations of the value of modern technology and mass culture, and asked by implication whether they did not perhaps militate against the fundamental vitality of an older sensibility which was in closer touch with the roots of human thought and action.

Raymond O'Malley was of Irish



parentage. His parents had settled in England in the early years of this century and he went to school in Brighton. He then went up to read English at Trinity College, Cambridge. At Cambridge he came under the influence of F. R. Leavis and took a first class degree.

Although with this qualification he might well have pursued an academic career within a university environment, he chose instead to become a schoolmaster and trained as an English teacher at London Day Training College. He then applied for a teaching post at Dartington Hall School, the progressive Devon educational establishment which was at that time in its early days. One of the other applicants for the post was W. H. Auden, but subsequent generations of Dartington Hall pupils always felt grateful to the headmaster, W. B. Curry, for his wisdom in choosing O'Malley a man who was to become one of the school's most inspirational teachers.

In the meantime Leavis had recruited him to the pioneering literary periodical *Scrutiny*, to which he was to make such a contribution during the 1930s.

His first wife died suddenly, shortly

after their return to Dartington. In 1949 he married, secondly, a musician Pamela Hind, who taught the cello on Imogen Holst's music courses.

In 1959 he went to lecture on education at Southampton University where he stayed for the next two years. In 1961 he was appointed University Lecturer in Education at Cambridge. He was also for the five years, 1972-77, Director of Studies in English at Selwyn College. He finally retired in 1976.

Following his book on his wartime crofting experiences, O'Malley began to publish in his chosen field, education and English. With Denis Thompson he published the five volumes of *English I-V* which appeared between 1955 and 1960. This was a new course book which encouraged the reading and understanding of literature through an innovative and imaginative selection of texts.

There was also the poetry anthology *Rhyme and Reason* (1957), also a joint venture with Thompson. This was notionally aimed at readers of 15 years and upwards, though O'Malley in fact disliked compartmentalising in this manner and never "talked down" to younger readers in his selections. On the same terms *Poetry I-V*, an anthology for middle schools, which came out between 1961 and 1963, was also a joint venture with Thompson. Its subtitle, *The Key to the Kingdom*, indicated the central importance both men attached to poetry at a time when the craft of verse writing seemed increasingly under threat in an age becoming overwhelmed by prose, both written and spoken, of a frequently low quality.

In a different sphere was O'Malley's edition of selections from the writings of the 19th-century sociologist Henry Mayhew, entitled *London Street Life* (1966). In the following year he published *Introducing Chaucer*, an introduction for schools. *Preels and Comprehension* (1964) became one of the educational standards, and O'Malley was asked completely to rewrite it as *Comprehension and Summary*.

Junior Anthology of Poems in four volumes appeared in 1966, and was aimed at the younger child. In addition, his time in the Western Highlands had given him a deep knowledge and love of the Gaelic folk songs of that region, which, as time went by, he extended to folk song of all eras. He contributed a chapter on the subject entitled *Flowers in the Valley* to Boris Ford's nine-volume *The Cambridge Guide to the Arts in Britain* (1991).

In his home life in Cambridge music was always to the fore. O'Malley had himself taken up the flute from the age of 30, and students and visitors to his house could always expect — besides conversation on a host of subjects — to be treated to a record recital from his collection and probably to some unaccompanied Bach from his wife Pamela; to round off the evening.

Raymond O'Malley is survived by his wife Pamela and by their daughter and two sons.

ARUNA ASAFA ALI

Aruna Asaf Ali, Indian political activist, died in Delhi on July 29 aged 88. She was born in Kalka, Punjab, on July 16, 1909.

THE socialist route chalked out for India by, first, Jawaharlal Nehru and, subsequently, Indira Gandhi, led to the slow marginalisation of the pro-Western, Anglicised Indian elite. The vacuum was filled by an emerging rival élite imbued with the progressive ideas and displaying a marked tilt towards the Soviet Union.

Straddling the area of consensus between the left wing of the ruling Congress Party and the opposition Communist Party of India (CPI), this new body of opinion formers exercised considerable influence over cultural life and political decision-making in Delhi from the 1950s to the late 1980s.

Along with such influential individuals as V. K. Krishna Menon, Romesh Thapar, D. P. Dhar, Mohan Kumar, Amangalam, and Rajni Patel, Aruna Asaf Ali was a prominent figure in this charmed circle.

Aruna Ganguli (as she was known before her marriage) was born to a Bengali family in Kalka, a small town in the Himalayan foothills. She was educated at the Sacred Heart Convent in Lahore but emerged as a non-conformist almost from the beginning. In 1928, at the age of 19, she broke with Hindu convention and married Asaf Ali, a Muslim lawyer, who was some two years her senior.

A vivacious socialist who moved back and forth between the Congress Party and the CPI, Aruna Asaf Ali shot to prominence during the Quit India movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi against British rule.

On August 9, 1942, while the top leadership of the Congress was imprisoned, she dodged a formidable police cordon and hoisted the Congress flag at the Gowalia Tank Maidan in Bombay. It was an act of audacity and exemplary courage and transformed her into a heroic symbol of the movement. She evaded arrest and became an important underground functionary of the Congress, travelling extensively throughout India.

After independence in 1947, Aruna Asaf Ali was made president of the Delhi unit of the Congress Party. She identified herself with the socialist faction led by Jayaprakash Narayan and broke away from the Congress in 1948. Her disagreements with the Congress tended to be somewhat unfocused and emotional, prompting Nehru to describe her as "a disturbing and disconcerting individual" who "does not fit in easily into the usual pattern".

Nehru's assessment was borne out when she, along with her companion Edgata Narayan, broke away from the Socialist Party in 1955 to join the CPI. The very next year, after Nikita Khrushchev's denunciation of Stalin at the 20th Party Congress, she rejoined the Congress Party and was elected the first Mayor of Delhi in 1958. It was the only official post she ever held.

Her resignation from the CPI did not diminish her fondness for the Soviet Union.

Active in the network of organisations promoting closer Indo-Soviet co-operation, such as the Afro-Asian Cultural Movement, the All-India Peace Council and All-India Women's Conference, she became the archetypal fellow traveller during the Cold War.



Encouraged by Nehru and Krishna Menon, she ventured into publishing. With Narayan as her editor, Aruna Asaf Ali became the publisher of *Patriot* — a daily newspaper from Delhi — and *Link*, news magazine. Both publications aimed at projecting a left-wing, pro-Soviet viewpoint.

For its part, the Soviet Union was generous in its patronage of both *Patriot* and *Link*. Bulk purchases by Moscow bolstered the actual insignificant circulations of these publications within India.

After the disintegration of the USSR, which also coincided with the marginalisation of the Indian Left, both Aruna Asaf Ali's papers fell on hard times and each ceased publication.

Always a loyal friend of the Soviet Union, Aruna Asaf Ali was awarded the Soviet Land Nehru Prize in 1955 and the Lenin Prize for Peace in 1975.

Her husband predeceased her in 1943. They had no children.

DAVID HOLLAND

David Holland, CMG, economist and central banker, died of cancer on July 25 aged 71. He was born on May 31, 1925.

AFTER working as an Oxford academic and Whitchurch economist, David Holland was head-hunted by the Bank of England from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 1975. He was recruited in order to help to strengthen the bank's senior economic team.

Starting as deputy head of economic intelligence, he went on to become deputy head of the overseas department. Thereafter he took charge of the international division, in the aftermath of the subdivi-

sion of the overseas department.

When he retired in 1985, having ten years in Threadneedle Street, the bank's own house journal described him as having one of the best minds of his generation. At one point he led a team whose work on analysing the European markets won it a reputation among central banks as being the world's most authoritative on the subject.

He was among the first to demonstrate the monetary risks of large offshore markets long before the Mexican debt crisis in 1982. He went on to chair an international working group on inter-bank mar-

kets and to play a leading part in formulating policies following the 1983 financial crisis in Hong Kong.

At the same time he was recognised as having expert knowledge of the North American and Japanese economies. After retiring from the Bank at the age of 60, Holland was snapped up by his former chief Lord Richardson, who had retired as governor of the Bank two years before, and installed as executive director of the Group of 30 — a new influential think-tank containing some of the world's leading central bankers.

As such, Holland coordinated the group's seminal studies on settlements and

clearances after the 1987 stock market crash. He then produced his own series of reports which monitored the progress made around the world in implementing the group's recommendations — designed to set new international standards. He was also later involved as a consultant in the early stages of planning Crest, the new electronic settlement system for British and Irish securities markets.

But then David George Holland might be said to have been born to international finance. He came into the world in Genoa, where his father was an executive of the First National City Bank of New York, and began his

education in Italy. His father then died, and Holland returned to this country with his mother who sent him to Taunton School.

From there he went up to Wadham College, Oxford, to read politics, philosophy and economics. The Second World War interrupted his studies and he left to serve as a captain with the Royal Corps of Signals in India and Burma.

Returning to Oxford, once he had been demobilised, he went on to take his expected first two years later.

In 1949 Holland joined the Oxford Institute of Economics and Statistics, carrying out research and also teaching at his old college Wadham and at Balliol. He stayed there for 13 years before taking up an appointment at the World Bank in Washington, including a six-month tour in India.

His return to Britain in 1965 was prompted chiefly by Harold Wilson's general election victory of the previous year. Like many others with left-of-centre views, he was attracted by what was then seen as the dawn of an exciting new age.

The Labour Government, for its part, was also anxious to recruit a new generation of gifted young civil servants to Whitehall. Holland spent two

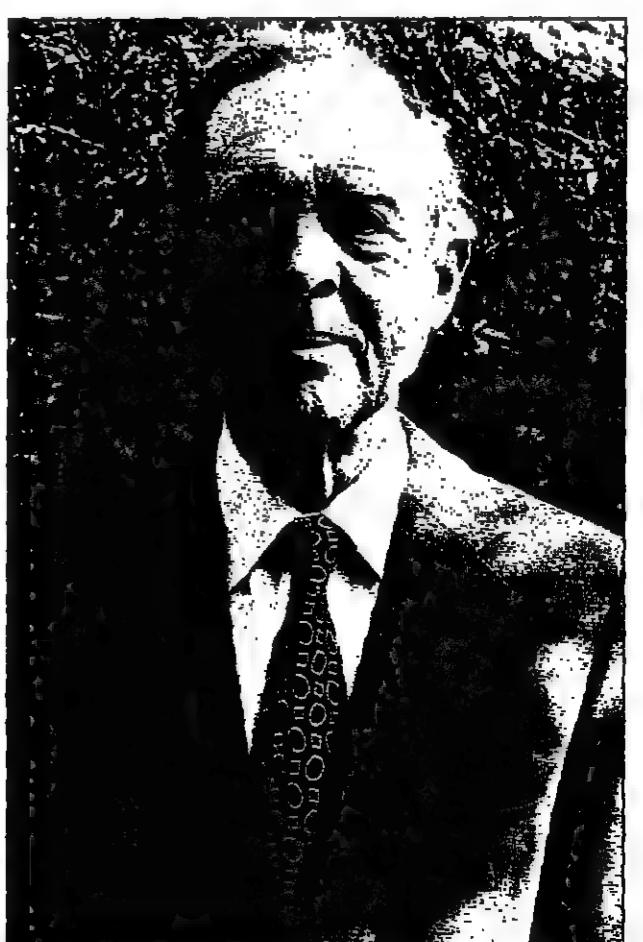
years at the Ministry of Overseas Development before winning promotion to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office as chief economic adviser. It was from there that he was poached by the Bank of England in 1975. He was appointed CMG that same year.

Holland retired from the Group of 30 at the age of 65 in 1990. He continued to work, however, as a consultant until after he had turned 70 last year.

Despite a first-class mind, David Holland was an unassuming person with a sharp sense of humour and powers of persuasion which were almost legendary. He rarely told subordinates what to do but quietly made his own suggestions — at times even playing devil's advocate — helping them eventually to reach their own conclusions.

He had a voracious appetite for work, which left him little time for recreation. When he was able to get away from his desk, he most enjoyed walking in the Chilterns near his country home.

David Holland is survived by his wife Marian, whom he married in 1954 after first meeting her on a tennis court in Oxford, and by their two sons and a daughter.



ROSES ALL THE WAY

It is a sad fact of horticultural life that the beginner who is more in need of advice, whether it be about rose growing, or anything else, seldom buys a book on the subject or even borrows one from the local library.

So thinking this week about roses, I would suggest to anybody about to plant some rose beds or borders, buy or borrow Leonard Hollis's book *Roses* (Collingridge). £5. With roses at today's prices, he might easily save himself the cost of the book several times over.

I propose to offer some advice to readers who have moved house and wish to grow roses, and to those who, although they have had a garden for some years, have now decided to make roses a feature of it.

First, know your soil. There is a common belief that roses do best on heavy clay, certainly they like a good rich, retentive loamy soil, but there are clays too heavy and sticky even for roses unless they are improved by working in loam-making material — manure, peat, garden compost — any organic material that will improve the soil texture. At the other end of the scale, we have the light, quick draining soils, and they too need similar treatment with copious mulching, and watering in dry spells. On such a soil I have found an application of one to two ounces to the square yard of

superphosphate in spring in addition to two applications of a general rose fertiliser, very effective.

Next one must consider the question of disease susceptibility. Some varieties are highly resistant to disease, almost immune, others are very prone to mildew, black spot, or rust. But also the locality in which you live has a bearing on this subject. In towns and cities where the air is well laden with sulphurous and other impurities, diseases are usually no

problem. Gradually the rose growers are noting in their catalogues whether a variety may need protection against this or that disease. I wish

ON THIS DAY

August 8, 1970

This article was written by the late Ray Hay, for many years the paper's Horticultural Correspondent.

they would all be as forthcoming. On this question of disease, the placing of roses in any particular garden has a bearing on the liability to disease. If the garden is enclosed by walls, hedges, trees or shrubs, and there is no through current of air, the roses — and many other plants — may be vulnerable to disease. Plant your roses in the most open, airy and sunny part of your garden. The reason is that disease spores germinate and enter the pores of the leaves under warm and humid conditions. In sheltered corners the early morning dew sometimes does not lift until midday, giving the disease spores plenty of time to germinate. You hardly ever see disease on a standard rose because the foliage dries off quickly in the morning.

If you are growing roses for the first time, go for the varieties that have stood the test of time and which you will find in almost every catalogue — hybrid tea varieties like Super Star, Wendy Cussons, Pink Favourite, Fragrant Cloud, Peace, Mischief, Stella, Piccadilly, Rose Gagnard, Prima Ballerina, Chicago Peace and Pascali. If you prefer floribunda roses, you could wisely choose from the following: Icberg, Evelyn Fison, Queen Elizabeth, Elizabeth of Glamis, Orange Sensation, Orangeade, Pink Parfait, Alford, Europa, Dearest, and Paddy McGredy.

PERSONAL COLUMN

OVERSEAS TRAVEL

LATE Availability holds to quoted spots in Greece & Islands, 0171 730 2251, 731 741 4421, 741 4427, 741 4429, 741 4430, 741 4435, 741 4436, 741 4437, 741 4438, 741 4439, 741 4440, 741 4441, 741 4442, 741 4443, 741 4444, 741 4445, 741 4446, 741 4447, 741 4448, 741 4449, 741 4450, 741 4451, 741 4452, 741 4453, 741 4454, 741 4455, 741 4456, 741 4457, 741 4458, 741 4459, 741 4460, 741 4461, 741 4462, 741 4463, 741 4464, 741 4465, 741 4466, 741 4467, 741 4468, 741 4469, 741 4470, 741 4471, 741 4472, 741 4473, 741 4474, 741 4475, 741 4476, 741 4477, 741 4478, 741 4479, 741 4480, 741 4481, 741 4482, 741 4483, 741 4484, 741 4485, 741 4486, 741 4487, 741 4488, 741 4489, 741 4490, 741 4491, 741 4492, 741 4493, 741 4494, 741 4495, 741 4496, 741 4497, 741 4498, 741 4499, 741 4500, 741 4501, 741 4502, 741 4503, 741 4504, 741 4505, 741 4506, 741 4

Warning: ear plugs needed

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

THE decision by Thomson, Britain's leading tour operator, to tell the unvarnished truth in its new brochures has come too late to prevent two young couples having their holiday in "tranquill, untroubled" Fuerteventura being ruined by blaring disco music, karaoke and quiz nights just a few yards from their bedroom.

Had they booked now for the same holiday next summer they would have been warned in the brochure to "pack your ear plugs". But last year chartered surveyor Edward Flude from Brighton expected to find peace and quiet. When, instead, his party was kept awake by loud entertainment immediately outside the bedroom window, he took the company to Brighton Crown Court, claiming almost £1,000 compensation — and won.

Mr Flude told the court he and his wife Amanda, together with their friends Adrian and Julie Roskrow, had chosen the Dunas Caleta Club Apartments in Corralejo because the brochure described it as the "perfect relaxing holiday" and that it was renowned for the "tranquillity of local life".

Ideal, the two families believed, for their two very young children. But their peace and quiet was shattered, the court was told, when the disco around the pool began in the early afternoon and "sumbed quizzes" were held. The noise went on until midnight and as the bedrooms overlooked the disco area sleep was impossible.

"It is difficult to fall asleep when you are forced to answer questions such as 'What was John Wayne's real name?' Mr Flude told the court. "Children tend to wake up early and it is most wearing if you are unable to even think of going to sleep until things

quieter down after midnight every night."

"Inside the apartments it was impossible to escape the music until it ended at midnight most evenings with the DJ's rendition of 'We are the Ovaltines' — a tune which will probably haunt us as long as we live," Mr Flude said.

"We had to keep the apartment bedroom windows shut to try to cut out some of the noise. We could, however, still hear every tuneless screech and found the heat in the apartments unbearable. My wife's many requests to the DJ for less volume as the babies could not sleep were met with scorn and ignored."

Eventually, they were moved to another apartment but not, they claimed, before the holiday had been ruined — a view with which the judge agreed and granted them their claim in full.

Thomson says that the brochure had been written before the disco had been set up. In the following year's brochure the description was amended so that it described the "lively atmosphere", the "non-stop entertainment" and the poolside music and entertainment.

Now the apartments are featured in the Skytours brochure and customers are advised that they could find themselves near the bar, "so light sleepers pack your ear plugs".

The Thomson spokeswoman added: "Now we have gone further still with a blunt warning that customers should expect lots of fun, night life and possibly noise. We are sorry the two couples had a bad time and this is precisely why we have introduced our new warts-and-all brochure. We hope that everyone who goes to the apartments will know what to expect and have a wonderful time."

Airport hotel rival checks in

BY STEVE KEENAN

BRITAIN'S cheapest hotel chain is looking to undercut high-flying rivals at Heathrow airport by at least half.

The French-owned Formule 1 chain opens its fourth UK hotel — near London City Airport — next month, and is now looking to open near Heathrow as well as in north London. The company charges £10 to £22.50 a night for a room which can sleep up to three people.

The price compares to average rates of £48 a room charged by airport hotels in London last year, according to industry consultants Horwath.

Formule 1 first opened in the UK five years ago with plans for 200 properties, but admitted it blundered in building where no one could find them. Its three hotels are on industrial estates in Peterborough and Stockton-on-Tees, and on the outskirts of Doncaster.

The latest property, at Barking, Essex, is five miles from London City Airport and is due to open on September 13. The format will be the same

as when the hotels launched a fanfare in 1991, with Formule 1 claiming to be Britain's first automatic hotel.

Customers use credit card check-in and are allocated a room number. A six-digit code punched into a keyboard gives access to the hotel and room.

The hotels have just two managers and part-time

cleaning staff.

John Ozinga, the UK operations manager, denied that the British are not struck by hotels with self-cleaning toilets and showers and no restaurants. "We have more of a problem getting people in than keeping them," he said. "We have a very good file of regular clients, such as sales reps."

Two-thirds of clients are on business, with nearly half spending at least one night a week in a hotel. Six out of seven are male.

The Barking hotel will undercut rivals including Travel Inn, Ilford, which charges £35.50 per room per night and even the YMCA in London Docklands, which costs £20 per person.

Careful comparison is needed, particularly between

specialists such as Ski the American Dream, which has been selling to the US for 25 years, mass market operators like Crystal and Airtours, who have been there for a few years, and those who have rushed to get the hot destinations in their brochure and who had little choice but to pick up what accommodation was left by the others. Ski Thomson, which used to be number one, let its ski programme wither, a decision it

is now doing its best to reverse.

Nelson believes families will return to skiing this season to push the market up by 15 per cent. It has split its growth with 16 new resorts between America and Canada, and typical family resorts in Austria, Italy and France.

Every company seems to have rediscovered the child, thought about the needs of parents and scattered families across the Alps.

No such thing as a free ride

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

PLANS to reduce the number of cars which clog roads leading to Heathrow and cause hundreds of passengers to miss their flights are being thwarted — by the taxman.

BAA, the airport operator, wanted to give away bus, tube or train passes to encourage thousands of airport staff to

use public transport rather than cars to get to work. But the Inland Revenue issued a warning that employees' tax bills would rise if it did.

Yet car park passes provided by airlines, shops, restaurants and other employers at



A horse market on China's Silk Road, one of the sights that the road — which links Asia with Europe — could offer tourists

Plea to open Silk Road to China and the East

BY DAVID CHURCHILL

CHINA and other Asian countries are under pressure to cut red tape to allow tourists greater freedom to travel the historic Silk Road, which linked China to the eastern end of the Mediterranean.

Delegates from 25 member nations of the World Tourism Organisation (WTO), a forum for global tourism issues, has now called for an easing of travel restrictions and the speedier granting of visas at a meeting in the Chinese city of Xian. This city was traditionally the starting point for Silk Road merchants making their way to the West.

The Silk Road is the world's longest thoroughfare, stretching more than 12,000km from China to Europe," says Harsh Varma, the WTO's Asian repre-

sentative. "Through tourism we intend to revitalise for the nations of Asia some of the wealth that resulted from trade in silk, spices, gold and gems during the times of Marco Polo, Genghis Khan and the Emperor Tamerlane."

The WTO is hoping that Asian national tourist bodies, Western tour companies, hoteliers and others will take part in promotions to highlight the history and sights that the Silk Road has to offer.

Already a tourism roadshow promoting

China is due to visit the UK next month to draw travel agents' attention to attractions such as the Silk Road.

Japanese tour companies have developed a 55-day Silk Road tour costing \$11,000 (£7,143) from Xian to Istanbul.

and have had to arrange extra tours because of the demand. Nick Laing, managing director of Steppes East, a specialist UK tour company, predicts that the "Silk Road will gain greatly in recognition in 1997, much as Moscow and St Petersburg have established themselves in the cultural tour of Europe over the last year".

Many Silk Road tourists will, of course, only be visiting part of the route at any one time. Steppes East offers a 10-day journey covering the three most important Silk Road cities of Russia, Central Asia — Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva, all in Uzbekistan — from £1,250 per person.

Steppes East: 01285 810267.

Air travel is a bargain

BY TONY DAWE

FURTHER proof that the world is becoming a more affordable place for travellers comes with the publication today of a survey which shows how air fares have plummeted in the past two years.

The figures from STA Travel, which specialises in organising trips for young independent travellers, show how the fares it is offering on scheduled flights from London to all parts of the world have dropped.

Flights to Australia and New Zealand are now more than £100 cheaper than two years ago and fares to the Far East have dropped by an average of £60. The biggest cut has come in Europe as the European Commission encourages an "open skies" policy.

"There is tremendous competition in the marketplace as more people travel and most of them shop around for the best deals," says Gillian Smith, STA's marketing manager. "As a result, airlines have been forced to bring down their fares and negotiate cheaper deals with us, especially as they regard our young customers as business travellers of the future."

"The cheap tickets are also available in other European capitals. In London, however, competition is the strongest, and as a consequence the prices tend to be the lowest in Europe."

AIR FARES FROM LONDON

	1994 £	1996 £
Paris	85	49
Amsterdam	72	49
Brussels	144	98
Athens	240	148
Sydney	520	783
Auckland	1,009	883
Bangkok	459	423
Bombay	449	389
Hong Kong	518	458

These are the fares negotiated by STA Travel with scheduled airlines; some are available to all travellers but others are restricted to students and under-26-year-olds.

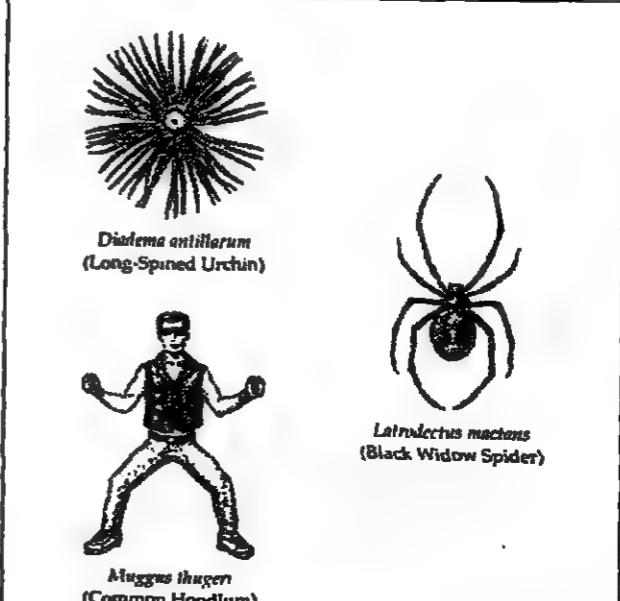
Palermo fights Mafia image

BY TIM WARE

FOR CENTURIES, when Sicily was at the political and economic hub of the Mediterranean, Palermo compared favourably with Rome, Milan and Venice in the richness of its buildings. But decades of Mafia interference, government incompetence and corruption changed all that. Since the Second World War, the city has been a sad shadow of its former self.

The Mayor's anti-Mafia stance comes at considerable personal cost to himself and his family. Two weeks ago a package was placed in the garden of his villa. The device was exploded by remote control and turned out to be harmless but the message behind the incident was clear.

Now the Mayor, Leoluca Orlando, who came to power three years ago with 75 per cent of the vote secured on an anti-Mafia ticket, has embarked on an extensive resto-



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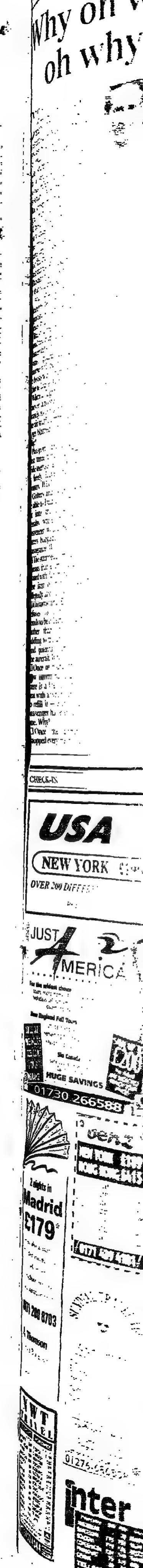
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Why oh why oh why?

Charlie, the four-year-old daughter of a good friend, has a winning—and effective—way of asking questions. She waits until you have made some perfectly logical statement and then, with a smile and a slight upwards inflection in her voice, asks simply "Why?"

Her crisp method of challenging even the most strongly held belief could usefully be used to question some of the more irritating, bizarre and unnecessary rules and activities of the travel industry and its regulators. For example:

■ Package tour operators insist that you check in at least an hour and a half and sometimes two hours before departure, so ensuring long queues. Why?

■ British airports have now abandoned public address announcements in favour of televisions, guaranteeing that someone will be in the bar or the bookshop when the flight is due to leave. Why?

■ When a flight is late, there is never anyone available accurately to explain the reason. The air traffic controllers seem to get blamed for everything. Why?

■ Passports are checked at least three times, yet Britons pride themselves on being able to freely leave their home country. Why?

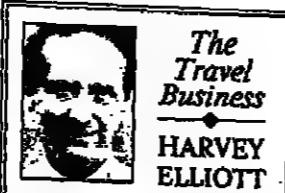
■ Golfers and skiers seem to be able to load any amount of kit into the hold without penalty while the ordinary passenger would be charged excess baggage for such extravagance. Why?

■ The stampede for duty free means that everyone gets on board with far more than the one item of hand baggage allegedly allowed. Why?

■ Customs and Excise flatly refuses to allow duty-free goods to be collected on arrival rather than on departure, adding to the above problem and potentially endangering the aircraft. Why?

■ Once on board, the cabin crew inform passengers that there is a life vest under the seat with a whistle and a tube to refill it—even though no passenger has ever had to use one. Why?

■ Once the aircraft has stopped everyone immediately



The Travel Business
HARVEY ELLIOTT

stands in the aisle with their hand baggage, even though the doors will not be open for another five minutes. Why?

■ Tour operators employ reps who speak in a strange singsong and seem trained to treat passengers like idiots. Why?

■ Many of the more popular but cheaper hotels do not provide beach towels, even for use at their own poolside. Why?

■ Guests are always told to check out before noon, even if their flight is at midnight and no further guests are expected. Why?

■ The bus to the airport will leave at least four hours before departure—even though it may still be the middle of the night in the resort. Why?

■ Almost without exception, all foreign holiday airports are badly designed, overcrowded and uncomfortable. Why?

■ Refreshment counters close rigidly at a fixed time, even though the airport may still be having with delayed passengers. Why?

■ Many airlines, especially charters, do not employ their own staff in resorts. They claim it is too expensive and are then surprised when their local agent either hides or is besieged by angry passengers demanding the one thing they are incapable of giving—an accurate information. Why?

■ However, short the flight and whatever time of the day or night, all airlines are convinced that their passengers need feeding. Why?

■ Instead of distributing the luggage among all the carousels in the arrivals hall, four or five flights have to share the only one working. Why?

■ Few of the above questions need bother anyone holidaying in Britain, yet nine million of us will head off on a foreign package tour this year. Why?

■ The travel industry should address these questions and more like them, soon—or I'll set Charlie on them.

Bargains of the week — take a Jeep through Turkey, raise a glass to Munich

HOTELS

■ **ESCAPEADE en Champagne** is a three-night package available at the Hotel le Bristol in Paris until the end of the year, including a one-day escorted tour to Reims to visit the cellars of the Veuve Clicquot champagne house, along with lunch and a bottle of champagne. Price, based on double occupancy, is £7080 (about £944) per person. Details: 0033 53 43 43 25.

■ A 20 per cent discount on the standard rate is available until the end of the month at Ashdown Park Hotel in East Sussex. The summer rate is available on any Sunday in Thursday night (excluding the bank holiday) from £99.20 per room based on two sharing. Details: 01342 824934.

■ TWO 40-room Travel Inn budget hotels open this week at Dunstable in Bedfordshire and Bishop's Stortford, near Blackpool. Both are next to Befefair restaurants. Rooms which can accommodate up to four cost £35.50 per night. Details: 01822 414341.

■ THE Franklin Hotel in Knightsbridge is offering champagne, strawberries and English tea as part of its "balmy summer breaks" promotion until the end of the month. Rooms are priced at £40 including VAT instead of the normal £175 plus VAT. Details: 0171 584 5533.

■ BARCELONA'S Conrad International Hotel, voted the city's best by more than 700 travel agents, has a "summer dreams" offer until the end of the month of £27 per person per night. Details: 0131 443800.

■ GUESTS staying with Inter-Continental Hotels' "summer spectacular" programme until September 3 will not only get special rates at 58 European hotels (up to 50 per cent off in some cases) but also a voucher worth \$50 (about £33) celebrating the group's 50th anniversary this year which can be used towards a future leisure stay at any of the 180 Inter-Continental hotels worldwide. Details: 0345 581444.

■ A £500 deposit secures a place at the Chester Grosvenor's eight-course gourmet dinner to be held on New Year's Eve 1999, with a fine wine for every course from different decades of the 20th century, along with champagne and a 1900 Armagnac. The price is £1,500 per head and 15 people have already booked. Details: 01244 324024.

■ THE Excelsior Hotel Ernst in Cologne is offering the "ultimate business programme" until December 7 with a welcome fruit basket and wine, a detailed street map of the city and free use of the business centre with secretarial and translation services. Price is DM330 (about £140) per night for single occupancy, DM440 double. Details: 0800 181123.

■ THE Murrayshall County House Hotel and Golf Course in Perthshire offers one night's accommodation and one round of golf for £62.50 per person. Details of this and other golfing breaks from Crystal Premier Golf: 0181-390 8513.



Take a 15-day walking holiday on Mont Blanc for £620 per person, leaving August 26

FERRIES

FREE Le Shuttle tickets are on offer with standard return bookings made by August 15 through Thomas Cook. With every economy ticket bought (£109 or £129) customers receive a free day return. The standard return must be used by August 31—the free ticket can be used between September 9 and December 12, excluding October 19-27.

■ SEA France has limited numbers of tickets available for £79 return on Dover-Calais this summer, or £99 one-way sailings. Details: 0900 717171.

■ SCANDINAVIAN Seaways is discounting £20 per adult, £10 per child off motoring holidays to Germany and Scandinavia. Reductions apply to all August and September holidays. Details: 0990 333222.

■ MINI-CRUISES from Portsmouth-Bilbao are available with P&O European Ferries from £99, depending on the time of year. The price is based on two travelling and includes cabin. £20 supplement for window cabins. Details: 0990 980980.

■ HORSESPED day trips are selling at £39 for a car and up to five passengers on Dover-Calais (£10 supplement on Saturdays) until September 9. The Folkestone-Douville route costs £39 (£45), available through DriveLine Europe. The company also has day trips on Sea France. sailing Dover-Calais, for £15 per car and £4 per passenger until August 31. Details: 0181-324 4000.

FLIGHTS

AIR UK has one of the lowest fares to Edinburgh. From August 19 its new service from London City to Edinburgh is launched with a £49 return (£33 return for children) fare with no minimum stay restriction. Details: 0345 666777.

■ BOOK a full-fare £234 return ticket with World Airlines between London City and Amsterdam and qualify for free car parking and a night's free hotel accommodation on arrival. Details: 0171-287 6000.

■ DEBONAIR has combined its Luton to Düsseldorf express and Munich services with a single flight but its low one-way fares remain as before, £39 to Düsseldorf, £49 to Munich. Details: 0500 146200.

■ EUROSTAR and British Midland have introduced rail-air interchange tickets between London, Brussels and Paris. Prices start at £169 one way but if you book a return ticket you qualify for a further free Eurostar ticket usable at a later date. Details: 0990 300003.

■ LUPUS Travel has cut-price business-class fares with Alitalia to eight Italian cities provided your stay includes a Saturday, Rome or Florence, for example, cost £298. Details: 071-306 3000.

■ BLUEBIRD Express has a low £379 fare to Johannesburg during August and September flying with charter airline Caledonian. Book today. Details: 0990 320000.

TENERIFE for a week for £269 a person in self-catering accommodation with a flight from Gatwick next Tuesday is available from Page & Moy. Details: 0116-250 7116.

■ FISHERMEN eager to enjoy National Fishing Week from August 17 to 24 can still find properties with fishing facilities available from Blakes Country Cottages, including a house on Loch Awe for £515 for up to four people and one on the Norfolk Broads for £673 for up to six people. Details: 01282 445097.

■ JEEP safaris through Turkey, including mountain walking and rafting, are available for a week from August 17 and 31 from Accommodation Overseas for £299 a person, including hotel and tent accommodation and half board. Flights extra. Details: 0181-977 2984.

■ SAVINGS of £50 a person on two-centre holidays in Bavaria, departing Heathrow on August 17 for eight days in Regensburg and Munich, are available from Mosvin Tours. Prices now start at £608 a person, including half-board accommodation and excursions. Details: 0116-271 9922.

■ CRYSTAL Lakes and Mountains is offering 11-night holidays in Austria for the price of seven, £239 a person, with flights from Gatwick, Glasgow and Manchester on August 12 and 24, with bed-and-breakfast accommodation. Details: 0181-399 5144.

■ BANK Holiday breaks in country guest houses in the Lake District for £72 a person including two nights' full board and picnic lunches are available from Countrywide Holidays. Details: 0161-446 2226.

■ NILE cruises for £469 a person for a week with full board and excursions are available from Goldenjoy Holidays with flights from Gatwick on August 23 and 30 and Manchester on August 24 and 31. Details: 0171-794 9767.

■ ITALIAN city hotel prices are being cut by 20 per cent by Room Service, with a double room with breakfast at a family-run hotel in Rome now costing £27 a person. With return flights available from £139, a week's holiday costs £328. Other deals available in Florence, Siena and Venice. Details: 0171-636 6888.

■ TOUR du Mont Blanc walking holiday, departing on August 26 for 15 days, is still available from Exodus for £620 a person, including return flights and tent accommodation. Details: 0181-675 5530.

■ FUERTEVENTURA for a fortnight for £309 a person in self-catering accommodation with a flight from Gatwick on August 28 is on offer from Inspirations. One week also available. Details: 01293 822244.

■ TOURS to the Munich Beer Festival are being organised from £169 a person by Top Deck, with departures between September 19 and 30 for six to nine-day bus and camping holidays. Details: 0171-370 4555.

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THE TIMES TODAY

THURSDAY AUGUST 8 1996

NEWS

Clinton hails 'stunning' Mars find

■ President Clinton saluted as "stunning" the discovery that life may have evolved independently on Mars.

Promising to pursue the discovery through further missions to the planet — the first will be launched in November — the President announced that a science summit would be held later this year to discuss the finding. If confirmed, he said: "It will surely be one of the most stunning insights into our world that science has ever uncovered." **Pages 1, 3**

Short claims Labour could lose

■ Tony Blair suffered his worst political blow since becoming Labour leader when Clare Short, a member of his Shadow Cabinet, openly voiced doubts over whether his party would win the next general election. Miss Short had been demoted by Mr Blair in his front-bench reshuffle two weeks ago... **Page 1**

Tramp released

A tramp was released from a prison in Brittany after apparently being cleared of raping and murdering the Cornish schoolgirl Caroline Dickinson. The French police investigation is now in disarray. **Page 1**

A new ball game

The England and Pakistan cricket captains will toss to decide which ball to use before the start of the second Test match between England and Pakistan. **Page 1**

Inflation watch

The Bank of England told Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, that he must raise interest rates "sooner rather than later" to keep the battle against inflation on course. **Page 2**

Judgment day

Vicars, traditionally answerable only to God, are asked to sit in judgment on each other under guidelines being drawn up by the Church of England. **Page 4**

Tea and sympathy

Domenico Forte, owner of a tea-room, won a battle with the mighty Forte chain that had tried to stop him running his business under his own name. **Page 5**

Bank at fault

A branch of the National Westminster Bank in King's Lynn apologised to business customers after overcharging them by up to £14,000 each. **Page 7**

Jackie O's secrets come to life

■ A new book, *All Too Human: the Love Story of Jack and Jackie Kennedy*, discloses lurid details of the lives of the late "royals" of America: from descriptions of where the young Jackie Bouvier first made love (in a creaking, ascending Paris lift) to the sexual disease that afflicted the former President through much of his adult life. **Page 12**



Eric the Red, a semi-albino badger recovering at Vale Wildlife Rescue Centre at Beckford, near Tewksbury, meets a new friend, Fleabag

BUSINESS

Economy: British business reacted with alarm to a Bank of England warning that it would push for a pre-emptive rise in interest rates to ensure the Government's inflation target is met. **Page 23**

Cordiant: Peter Rawlins, the former chief executive of the Stock Exchange, has been made European head of Siegel & Gale, the corporate-identity arm of Cordiant. **Page 23**

Power: Electricity companies that fail to deliver competition for household consumers face tough penalties. **Page 23**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 22.7 points to close at 3811.1. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose to 84.3 after a rise to \$1.5422 and to DM2.2988. **Page 26**

SPORT

Cricket: The conditions for play are much to England's liking at Headingley where they take on Pakistan in the crucial second Test match, hoping to square the series. **Pages 42 and 44**

Golf: Tom Watson, the American who has won eight major titles, favours Colin Montgomerie as they prepare for the US PGA Championship in Louisville. **Page 42**

Athletics: Jonathan Edwards, the Olympic silver medallist, won the triple jump in windy conditions in Sestriere, but Linford Christie and Colin Jackson had to settle for minor placings. **Page 33**

Rugby league: As the sport tries to spread its wings further, there is optimistic talk of forming a five-nations' tournament. **Page 38**

ARTS

Films of the week: The US box-office smash, *Independence Day*, in which aliens invade America, is more hype than good drama; but *The Secret of Roan Inish* is full of imaginative fantasy. **Page 31**

New releases: *Desperado*, *Cold Fever* and *Clockers* are among videos on release, while Hallgramsson's *String Quartet* and Tchaikovsky's *Piano Concerto No 1* are recommended buys. **Page 32**

Art prizes: The British Gas Properties, Working for Cities Awards, have chosen Antony Gormley's most controversial sculpture *Angel of the North* and five other projects as their winners. **Page 33**

Strong star: Harriet Walter turns in a fine performance in Chichester's *Hedda Gabler*. **Page 33**

FEATURES

Escape route: Many of the daughters of prostitute mothers in Calcutta are abused. A new centre now tries to keep the girls away from their mothers' clients. **Page 15**

Out to lunch: If you take a proper lunch break in a good restaurant, you do your work more efficiently — and that's official. **Page 15**

BODY AND MIND

Dr Thomas Stutterford on why the state of being a twin of a stillborn baby is described as being a psychological catastrophe. **Page 14**

Diagnosing ME: A patient's body and mind need care and neither one is more important than the other. **Page 14**

TRAVEL

Bargains of the week: Take a Jeep through Turkey. **Page 21**

BOOKS

Ideas, glory and genius: David Watkin on Sir John Soane; Bernard Levin listens to Wagner; Michael Hofmann on Peter Reading's poems. **Pages 34, 35**

THE PAPERS

Whatever history's judgment of these Olympics, there's credit due to communities with the heart, cohesion and community pride to take on a job such as this — and Atlanta deserves it in full. **— The Washington Post**



TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

FLY AWAY
Final token in our £30,000 Virgin flights competition, with 14 pairs of tickets to Johannesburg to be won

LIFE OR DEATH
David Dimbleby on assisted suicide and the family wrangle that has divided America

TRAVEL

Bargains of the week: Take a Jeep through Turkey. **Page 21**

BOOKS

Ideas, glory and genius: David Watkin on Sir John Soane; Bernard Levin listens to Wagner; Michael Hofmann on Peter Reading's poems. **Pages 34, 35**

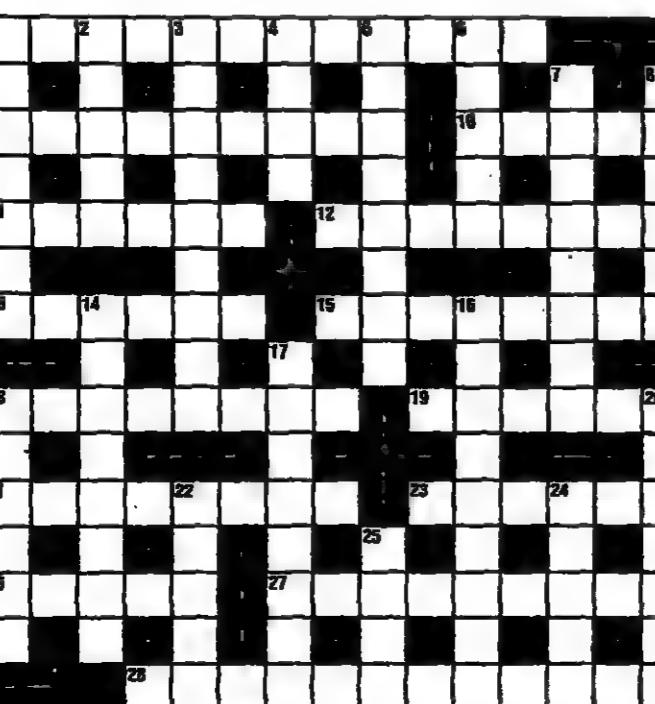
THE PAPERS

Whatever history's judgment of these Olympics, there's credit due to communities with the heart, cohesion and community pride to take on a job such as this — and Atlanta deserves it in full. **— The Washington Post**

LETTERS

Gun ownership; endangered species: Atlanta; Alan Shearer; Catholics and the Queen. **Page 17**

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,241



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Wessex: 709
Central Midlands: 710
East Midlands: 711
West Midlands: 712
Dales & Pennines: 713
North & East: 714
W. & S. Yorks & Dales: 715
N. England: 716
Cumbria, Lake District: 717
S. & W. Scotland: 718
W. Central Scotland: 719
Central Scotland & Borders: 720
E. & Central Scotland: 721
Grampian & Highlands: 722
Highland: 723
Cairngorms & Shetland: 724
N. Island: 725
Wales: 726
England: 727
Scotland: 728
Ireland: 729
Overseas: 730
Australia: 731
New Zealand: 732
South Africa: 733
Overseas: 734
Overseas: 735
Overseas: 736
Overseas: 737
Overseas: 738
Overseas: 739
Overseas: 740
Overseas: 741
Overseas: 742
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THE TIMES

INSIDE
SECTION
2
TODAY



ECONOMICS

Anatole Kaletsky:
why Ken and Eddie
could both be right
BUSINESS 23-30



ARTS

Harriet Walter is
the best of a gaggle
of Hedda Gablers
PAGES 31-33



SPORT

Soggy finish to
England's Test
preparations
PAGES 38-44

**TELEVISION
AND
RADIO
PAGES
42-43**

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY AUGUST 8 1996

Stage set for public fight between Clarke and George on inflation

Business alarm over rate threat



George inflation worry

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH business reacted with alarm to the Bank of England's warning in its Inflation Report yesterday that it would push for a pre-emptive rise in interest rates to ensure the Government's inflation target is met.

Ian Peters, Deputy Director-General of the British Chambers of Commerce, said: "Our members do not want any change to the current level of interest rates. To raise them now could endanger the slow but steady recovery." He added: "There are many small firms still struggling and to present them with an interest rate see-saw could push many of them to the wall."

Kate Barker, Chief Economic Adviser at the Confederation of British Industry and a member of the Chancellor's independent forecasting panel, said that it was too early to talk about a pre-emptive rise

in interest rates. "We would not be looking for one this year," she said.

Nationwide, Britain's second biggest building society, said it would have some concern about the effect of a rate rise on housing market confidence, while the Abbey National favoured rates being left alone for now.

Many in the City applauded the Bank's advice but they still believe that the Chancellor may be tempted to cut rates

again. Simon Briscoe of Nikko Europe said that the Bank was within its rights to make it hard for the Chancellor to cut rates by voicing its opposition. Nevertheless, he believes that "rates are on hold pending further news but that any move this year is more likely to be down than up".

Kevin Durlington of Hoare Govett said politics and the fact that inflation is set to fall in the short-term may dictate another rate cut. He said: "The

cheeky Chancellor may cut rates once more in the hope of repeating at leisure should it help him to secure a fresh five-year term. A more open bust-up between the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England is on the cards."

Speaking on BBC Radio, Roger Bootle, chief economist at Midland Bank, said that the Chancellor had been right to push through a quarter point cut in rates in June. He

expected rates to fall.

Richard Jeffrey, chief

economist at The Charterhouse Group, said that the Bank, where Eddie George is Governor, should be taken seriously and that raising rates in a preemptive strike against higher inflation would boost the credibility of the Government.

Sterling, which has been weakening along with the dollar in recent weeks, was lifted a little yesterday on the Bank's warning. City analysts said that the pound would suffer if the Chancellor were either to cut rates or refuse to raise them when the Bank advises him to do so.

At yesterday's close, the pound's effective index against a basket of currencies had risen to 84.3 compared with 84.0 at Tuesday's close. It gained half a pence against the mark and half a cent against the dollar. British government bonds initially lost ground after the Inflation Report was published but then rallied along with US Treasury bonds.

Upturn in orders for manufacturers

BRITISH manufacturing is seeing improved demand for its products but the experience of different regions is still mixed, according to the Confederation of British Industry's regional trends survey, published with Business Strategies Ltd. (writes Janet Bush)

Six out of the 11 regions covered saw growth in orders

in the last four months, a clear improvement on the previous survey published in May when five out of those six had seen flat or falling new orders. In those regions reporting falling orders in the latest survey, the rate of decline was slower than in the four months to April.

The CBI said that orders are expected to rise in all

regions except the East Midlands over the next four months and output is expected to increase in all regions.

Growth in orders has been concentrated in those regions where exports have increased.

The survey said export orders are expected to increase in all regions over the coming four months, although firms in the West Midlands, Scotland and

the East Midlands remain cautious. In two regions — the North and Yorkshire — political and economic conditions abroad are expected to pose an increasing constraint on export orders.

Domestic prices fell, or

were unchanged, in nine out

of the 11 regions, evidence of

continuing competitive

pressures.

Abbey gives half-time dividend boost of 20%

BY ROBERT MILLER

ABBEY NATIONAL reported a sparkling 16 per cent increase, to £558 million, in half-year profits and promised a further £50 million reduction in costs after the acquisition of the National & Provincial Building Society.

The former building society turned bank celebrated its record interim results by raising the half-time dividend for more than two million shareholders by 20 per cent, to 8.7p, to be paid on October 7.

In spite of the heavy costs associated with the £1.35 billion N&P takeover, Abbey National reduced its cost to income ratio to 41.6 per cent in the six months to June 30, compared with 44.6 per cent in the same period last year. Lord Tugendhat, chairman of Abbey National, said: "We are on target to achieve a 40 per cent cost-to-income ratio by the end of 1997."

The share price for the distribution of Abbey National shares to former qualifying members of N&P was fixed yesterday at 567.35p.

Around £175 million will be distributed in shares to N&P customers, while some £875 million in cash will be credited directly to the accounts of other qualifying members between August 26 and September 2.

Abbey National's 23,000 staff, including those from N&P, will be given the chance to buy 150 shares each under a special five-year executive share option plan with the share price being set tomorrow. Abbey's shares closed at 587p last night, down 14p.

Retail banking business contributed a 2 per cent increase to group profits, to £321 million, while provision for bad and doubtful debt rose to £49 million, compared with £28 million last time. Abbey National said that 65,000 new bank accounts were opened in the first half of the year, along with the issuing of 80,000 new credit cards since launch in February.

On the life assurance side, which comprises both Abbey National Life and Scottish Mutual Assurance, pre-tax profits were up 29 per cent, to £67 million. Consumer credit was up by 153 per cent, at £43 million, reflecting the acquisition of FNFC and a substantial rise in the Abbey National-branded unsecured personal loan assets. The purchase of Wagon Finance, completed on July 2, will add around £30 million in unsecured loan assets.

Abbey National, which now derives 42.5 per cent of its profits from non-traditional activities, announced that its treasury and offshore division produced an 18 per cent rise in profits to £129 million.

Peter Birch, chief executive of Abbey National, called yesterday for a new category of personal financial banks to be launched next year when converting societies such as the Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester also become banks. He said: "We are all miles different from banks such as Barclays and NatWest and it will avoid confusion."

Tempus, page 26

Rawlins secures new job

PETER RAWLINS, who was fired as chief executive of the Stock Exchange three-and-a-half years ago, has been made European head of Siegel & Gale, the corporate identity arm of Cordant. He is expected to be paid in excess of £200,000 a year (Jason Nisbet writes).

Mr Rawlins received a pay-off of £175,000 plus a Renault Espace car when he lost his job after the Exchange cancelled its Taurus settlement system at a cost of £75 million to itself and more than £300 million to the City. His successor, Michael Lawrence, lasted only two years in the post before being kicked out last year.

Mr Rawlins, who was known as Napoleon by his staff, has been filling his time as an independent strategic and marketing consultant.

Tempus, page 26

FOOD-LOVERS not already sated by a diet of Delia Smith, Rick Stein, Keith Floyd and a host of other chefs performing on British television, will be able to sample cookery programmes for five hours a day from next month.

Carlton Communications, run by Michael Green, is to launch Carlton Food Network, a cable channel available on subscription from noon to 5pm on weekdays.

Half of the country's cable companies have already signed up and Carlton hopes that it will be available to all the UK's 1.4 million cable subscribers when it launches on September 2.

Carlton is investing £5 million in the channel, which is

almost as much as it paid for its existing cable channel, Carlton Select, which shows entertainment programmes.

Janet Goldsmith, managing director of Carlton Select, has signed up leading chefs, including Anthony Worrall Thompson and Brian Turner, star of BBC TV's *Ready Steady Cook*, which focuses on haute cuisine.

She is planning a wide range of topics, including how to cook a meal in 30 minutes, celebrities cooking in their own homes, where to buy the best produce and programmes on health.

Carlton is also looking for sponsors but will have to be careful it does not foul up the bestseller lists before Christmas.

Commission, which polices the TV industry. Worries have been expressed about links between TV food experts and the suppliers of their product — there has been criticism of Jancis Robinson putting her name to a range of wines launched by Sainsbury and linked to a BBC programme, *Jancis Robinson's Wine Course*.

The influence of TV chefs is well-known. Delia Smith, who has yet to be signed by Carlton, caused a cranberry shortage after recommending the fruit in one of her TV recipes. Her recent book on winter food, linked to her BBC programme, featured in the bestseller lists before Christmas.

Gilman to appeal over Leeds deal

PETER GILMAN, the deputy chairman of Leeds United, is to continue his fight against Caspian Group's £16.5 million takeover of the FA Carling Premiership football club (Jason Nisbet writes).

Mr Gilman yesterday lodged an application to the Court of Appeal, asking for the right to appeal Mr Justice Rattie's ruling two weeks ago throwing out his attempt to block the deal, which was completed last week.

If successful, Mr Gilman, who owns a third of the shares, wants to force Caspian to sell him the rest of the club at the price it paid. Mr Gilman claims the other main shareholders, Bill Fotherby and Leslie Silver, agreed to offer him their shares.

Electricity firms may face tough penalties

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

ELECTRICITY companies that fail to deliver competition for household consumers face tough penalties in new licence arrangements drafted by the industry regulator.

Regional companies that delay testing the complicated systems needed to ensure that domestic customers can shop around for electricity will have to put money towards the costs of those companies that established systems early.

The move by Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, comes amid growing concern in the industry that the April 1998 deadline for the delivery of full competition in power will not be met.

Privately, many regional companies say that the systems needed to co-ordinate the ambitious project are not likely to be functional by the date. While a number of companies suggest that some of their peers are more tardy than others in implementing a framework for competition, most agree that the timetable drafted by the regulator is unlikely to be met.

The Government has told the companies they must deliver competition by April 1998 while Professor Littlechild has been roundly criticised by the industry for not providing sufficient leadership.

The regulator's power to amend the licences gives him a strong weapon against an industry that is no longer centrally organised and has to function as though it were to deliver competition.

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Standard Chartered boosted by Far East

By ROBERT MILLER

STANDARD Chartered, the international banking group, yesterday unveiled better than forecast half-year results with a 40 per cent jump in pre-tax profits, to £448 million, after a sharp rise in retail mortgage lending in Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia.

However, Malcolm Williamson, the group chief executive of Standard Chartered, which saw its trading profits increase by 31 per cent, to £402 million, gave warning that such buoyant mortgage lending in its Far East operations was unlikely to be repeated in the second half of the year.

He said: "Intense competition in these markets and government measures to cap property borrowing make it unlikely that this rate of growth can continue."

Standard Chartered, which raised its bad and doubtful debt provision to £44 million, from £30 million in the same period last year, largely to cover its expanding loans and advances portfolio, lifted its interim dividend in the six months to June 30 by 1p, to 4.25p. Shareholders are to receive the half-time payout on October 18.

The bank said that, based on the latest headline earnings, the return on ordinary shareholders' funds had risen to 28 per cent, compared with 25.4 per cent previously.

Earnings per share for Standard Chartered were up by 37 per cent, to 27.3p, while the all-important cost-to-income ratio fell to 55 per cent, against 61 per cent, even though total operating expenses increased

to £538 million, from £518 million last time.

Mr Williamson said that Standard Chartered's corporate banking business had made good progress, with an increase in trading profit of 22 per cent. Trading profit from the group's treasury business rose by 16 per cent.

The credit card arm of the bank, which received £7 million investment boost during the first half of the year, also contributed to the increase in profits, with the total number of Standard Chartered cards in issue rising by more than 35 per cent and with the newly-entered markets of India and Taiwan proving a success.

As well as the 30 per cent increase in trading profits, to £1.8 billion, from the Hong Kong division of Standard Chartered, other Asian countries jointly contributed £115 million, against £100 million previously. The Middle East and South Asia operations chipped in £25 million, compared with £5 million last year, while Africa showed a 24 per cent gain, to £26 million.

The UK and the Americas provided £33 million, a 26 per cent rise.

Commenting on the results Patrick Gilligan, chairman of Standard Chartered, said: "Our strategy continues to be based on the long-term opportunities presented by our franchises in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. These are enabling us to expand our core businesses and provide a service to corporate, institutional and personal customers which few competitors can match."



Michael Peagam says that Holliday Chemicals will concentrate on its core businesses and seek joint ventures

Holliday's head admits mistakes

MICHAEL Peagam, chairman of Holliday Chemicals, admitted that he took his eye off the ball when the Huddersfield company produced disappointing figures last year. (Jason Nisbet writes).

Dr Peagam promised that the group would concentrate on its three core businesses, of dyestuffs, pharmaceutical products and pigments, and would seek joint ventures to develop those areas.

Holiday made pre-tax profits of £8.2 million in the half year to June, down from £11 million in the same period last year, but up on the £11 million of the second half of 1995.

Earnings per share were 5.4p, down from 7.6p, but an increased dividend of 2.1p (2p) will be paid on October 2.

Granada sells Irish tour firm to Thomson

FROM EILEEN McCABE IN DUBLIN

THOMSON, the British holiday company, yesterday swallowed whole its main rival in the Irish Republic, Budget Travel, after six months of acrimonious competition.

The price that Thomson paid Granada Group for Budget was not disclosed. Budget is Ireland's premier holiday firm, with market share of 30 to 40 per cent and turnover of almost £160 million last year.

Analysts say that Thomson/Budget will have up to 45 per cent of the republic's market, and there is some political pressure for the deal to be put to its competition authority.

Budget Travel was set up in

1975 by one of the republic's most dynamic and colourful businesswomen, Gillian Bowler, who became joint managing director after Granada bought the company for £14.5 million nine years ago. She, along with Harry Synder, will retain their posts under Thomson ownership.

Earlier this year, Thomson burst onto the Irish market advertising the low cost of its holidays. Budget responded by publicly questioning Thomson's ability to deliver on its promises, and the bitter squabble between the two often made the front pages of the national newspapers. The

differences now seem to have been patched up.

Charles Newbold, Thomson's managing director, says that the deal is a natural progression. "We're number one in the UK. Budget is easily number one in Ireland, so now, instead of fighting each other, we're going to be able to direct our energies to offering what Irish holidaymakers want," he said.

Ms Bowler said that Budget would continue to trade under its own brand, which had built up strong customer loyalty.

Last year, another leading Irish holiday group, JWT, was bought by Falcon, the British company.

Argent pays £15.3m for retail park

Australians to sell more power sites

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

Argent, the property group, has bought Reading Retail Park from the Prudential for £15.2 million. The current rent is £1.2 million, approximately £9.30 per sq ft. Argent's shares were unchanged at 348p, valuing the company at £20 million.

EIS purchase

EIS, the acquisitive engineering group, is paying £1.15 million for RD Taylor & Co, a Glasgow company that distributes chemicals, oils and adhesives for the aircraft and defence industries. EIS said Taylor would complement its existing businesses.

Cowie deal

Cowie Group, the car dealer that has moved into running buses, is paying £4.5 million to acquire Latham Van Hire. Half the price will be paid in cash, with the remainder a mixture of cash and loan stock.

Trio job

Trio Holdings, the money broking group that lost £11.3 million last year, has appointed John Thomson as finance director. He replaces Peter Moore, who will become a non-executive director from October.

Correction

Allders is buying eight Owen Owens stores for £23 million (Tempus, August 6). This will bring its total number of stores in the UK to 30. Allders' department stores turnover last year was £310 million.

THE state government of Victoria, Australia, intends to sell five more power stations over the next two years in the light of the "wonderful" price of £52.35 billion (£1.17 billion) that it received from National Power for its Hazelwood power station.

Jeff Kennett, Victoria's premier, admitted yesterday that the Government had valued the 1600MW power station at just £5700 million before the sale, and had even considered closing it a few years ago.

Describing it as the state's oldest and least efficient brown coal-fired station, Mr Kennett said: "Not only have we ensured it will stay open and provide employment, but we have got a wonderful price that will reduce our debt further."

National Power led a consortium made up with the US utilities Pacificorp and Dusit Energy to buy the power station, which is situated east of Melbourne and comes with its own brown coal mine.

British electricity companies have played a key role in Victoria's huge electricity privatisation — modelled on the UK's self-off — which has so far reaped A\$13.6 billion for the Government, more than twice the amount expected by

analysts.

A consortium led by PowerGen paid A\$2.4 billion last month for the nearby 1450MW Yallourn power station. Southern Electric and Scottish Power were also early bidders for some of the state's five distribution companies.

Flying Flowers dismissal

FLYING FLOWERS, the Jersey flowers-by-post group, has dismissed Christopher Body, the director who ran its Bellbourn subsidiary. Flying Flowers said the dismissal was unconnected to Bellbourn's disappointing first-half results, which were hit by restructuring costs. Strong performances from Flying Flowers' core mail order operation and from DPA, its plants subsidiary, helped the group to pre-tax profits of £1.64 million, up 52 per cent. An interim dividend of 1.30p (1.08p) will be paid on October 25 from earnings of 6.15p per share (4.14p).

Siebe in twin ventures

SIEBE, the engineering giant, is embarking on two joint ventures with GE Fanuc to develop and market industrial automation products. GE Fanuc is itself a joint venture between General Electric of the US and Fanuc of Japan. Siebe's Foxboro subsidiary and GE Fanuc will make process and discrete control products. The two partners are also setting up a new company in Germany, GE Fanuc Eberle Automation, to develop and sell programmable logic controllers, which control the start-up, operation and shutdown of machinery.

Applied shares slump

SHARES in Applied Distribution fell 3p to 92p after the contract distributor warned the stock market that its final results would be sharply below last year's. The company made a provision of £1.5 million to cover losses on a contract. Group pre-tax profits were £240,000 (£2.23 million) despite a 54 per cent increase in sales to £28.1 million. Analysts cut annual pre-tax profit forecasts from £5.5 million to £3 million. The interim dividend stays at 1.5p, payable on October 25. Earnings fell 1.5p to 3.3p.

Crown Eyeglass rises

SHARES in Crown Eyeglass rose 25p to 235p yesterday after the US-quoted spectacle maker said it planned to buy back its £1.01 million cash to buy back up to 15 per cent of its shares. The group, which listed its pre-tax profits by 5p per cent to £924,000 in the year to March 31, said it intended to move to the Alternative Investment Market in October. Success in Sweden helped sales by 44 per cent to £10.5 million. A final dividend of 8p will be paid on October 17, increasing the total to 12p (10.5p). Earnings grew sharply to 38.9p (24.4p) a share.

Hultman reinstated as Leonard leaves

Eurotherm battle ends

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

THE bruising boardroom battle at Eurotherm, the electronic components group, was resolved yesterday with the reinstatement of Claes Hultman as chief executive and the resignation of Dr Jack Leonard, co-founder and chairman of the company.

Dr Leonard, who has been with the company for 31 years, is to be replaced by Sir James Hann, currently chairman of Hickson, the chemicals company.

The battle for control of Eurotherm erupted at the beginning of July when Dr

Leonard, with the support of the non-executive directors, forced Mr Hultman to resign after disagreements over the direction and management structure of the company. But the company's leading institutional backers intervened in support of Mr Hultman and have helped to construct the new agreement, in which Dr Leonard will leave.

Mr Hultman said he was "delighted" to be back at the company, adding that the executive team was committed to continuing the company's growth. Mr Hann is expected

TOURIST RATES

	Bank	Bank
Australia S	2.00	1.95
Austria Sch	17.10	15.60
Belgium Fr	50.11	45.81
Canada \$	2.218	2.058
Denmark Kr	5.91	5.61
Finland Mark	7.48	6.93
France Fr	8.15	7.54
Germany Dm	2.44	2.23
Greece Dr	550	550
Hong Kong S	12.54	11.54
Iceland Kr	113	93
Ireland P	1.01	0.93
Israel Sheq	5.24	4.88
Italy Lira	2440	2294
Japan Yen	178.40	163.40
Malta	0.982	0.937
New Zealand \$d	2.718	2.488
Norway Kr	2.35	2.17
Norway Kr	10.43	9.63
Portugal Esc	246.00	227.50
Spain Pes	7.49	6.89
Sweden Kr	262.00	195.00
Switzerland Fr	10.03	10.03
United States \$	152.70	147.00
United States \$	1.838	1.508

Notes: (i) Includes realised investment gains before taxation of £6.1m (1995 £3.9m).

(ii) At 31 December 1995.

The 1996 interim report will be circulated to shareholders on 30 August 1996 and copies can be requested from the Shareholder Relations Service at the address below or by telephoning 0171 283 7500 ext 28866.

Commercial Union plc, St. Helen's, 1 Undershaft, London EC3P 3DQ
Internet: <http://www.commercial-union.co.uk/cu>

□ Banks ride the Far East boom □ Airtours sees supply and demand balance □ Scottish grouse seek EU subsidy

□ ONE can only hope they are not whistling in the dark, these banks who are convinced that Hong Kong will be as profitable as a year's time as it was a year ago. But investors might do well to wonder.

The banks are having a good interim reporting season, but HSBC, owner of the Midland, and Standard Chartered stand out from the pack. What has buoyed both up is their profits from the Hong Kong residential market. HSBC saw a 25 per cent rise in profits from its Hong Kong banking operation; Standard Chartered's chief executive, Malcolm Williamson, said that Hong Kong "remains a key contributor to group profits", as well he might. Trading profits from the colony rose by 34 per cent on a 12-month comparison, to £153 million.

Profits from home loans rose by 38 per cent in the first half, the main growth areas being Hong Kong, Singapore and Malaysia. Intense overheating on the last two property markets has prompted government moves to calm property borrowing, and Standard accepts that the growth enjoyed so far cannot continue. But the bank says it will be business as usual in Hong Kong once the Chinese gerontocracy takes over next year, even claiming that the end of British rule would actually benefit Hong

Kong's standing as a world financial centre.

The omens for residential property, however, are not good. Prices were largely static during the 1980s but rose sharply thereafter, according to figures from one large surveyor. Between 1989 and 1995 values increased by almost three and a half times. No property market can sustain such growth forever, and one like Hong Kong that is staring into the 1997 abyss must accept the strong chance of a serious correction.

In this country we have learnt since 1989 just what such a correction means. Standard insists its mortgages on residential property are limited to 50 to 60 per cent of the value of the property. But consider this scenario. Civil unrest sparks a military crackdown, and sends property values plunging. Too many Hong Kong citizens in negative equity have no financial stake in staying, and every reason politically to leave. So the property market plunges further...

The counter-argument is that Peking, owning large tracts of land in the colony already and

with its half a dozen regional exchanges in chaos, will need access to outside capital raised through Hong Kong and sees every reason to preserve stability. The word the optimists use is pragmatism.

But Peking has always tempered pragmatism with rigid authoritarianism. Investors can have no more idea how the Chinese will react to any defiance after 1997 than did those Chinese citizens who opposed the tanks in Tiananmen Square.

Welcome break for holiday firms

□ PICKY lot, aren't you? You don't like the Greek islands because they aren't as cheap as the Costa Brava. You won't go near a French gate again, nor after the last time when the plumbing packed up and the locals spent the fortnight gawping over the cypress hedge. Sri Lanka is full of Tamil Tigers. Florida is full of muggers. Even the cheap joys of camping are starting to pall.

The travel trade says that in a

£99 packages to the Med last year will have to stay at home.

The trade is promising not to add extra capacity into the market for next summer, but the industry does not have a good track record on self restraint. In the past, market share has been all, even at the expense of profits, which is why the capacity cuts this year were so unusual.

There is one reason why they may again hold the line. The Office of Fair Trading report into their ownership of travel agencies may go either way, but firms will certainly have to be more careful about informing the consumer. A higher proportion of profits in future may have to come from the package holidays themselves, rather than the selling of them.

The moor the merrier

□ SCOTLAND is clearly ready to be an independent small nation within the European Union, with all the Franco-German bribery that brings. Just four days before the Glorious Twelfth —

epicentre of Britain's silly season — a report from the Game Conservancy Scottish Research Trust issues a dire warning that grouse-shooting is at risk without subsidies from taxpayers.

Shocked Scottish landowners have found that, in spite of heavy losses, their moors do not get Whitehall support or qualify for European Union grants. London is notoriously mean towards basic industries. So Brussels is surely the place to demand subsidies, in the greater cause of harmonising avian death across this great continent of ours.

A lyrical Scottish Landowners Federation spokesman enthused:

"The grouse in the heather, the salmon in the river, the stag on the hill, should all be part of the wild life in unspoilt country that are an attraction to make a great Scottish holiday". Quite so.

Wigan Wake Week would never be the same without them.

The sport has, it seems, been in

steep decline because someone has been killing the birds. In five years to 1994, income fell 60 per cent while costs rose 40 per cent, squeezing finances to the thickness of an anorexic game chip.

Field sports, says the SLF, should be supported along with agriculture and forestry.

Better sing Brussels a protectionist tune. Scottish grouse are being undercut by Eastern birds.

The nightmare of cut-price Germans jumping into four-wheel-drive Dacias and heading for slaughter in Transylvania should bring out EU wallets. If not, rely on lottery money.

Wrong kind of rail

□ NO one emerges with any credit from Labour's latest rail privatisation "scandal", the sale of Eversholt Leasing. Labour's Glenda Jackson has fingered the likes of Candover Investments, the Royal Bank of Scotland and Hanson, for whom in a previous incarnation she made a well-remembered commercial, as making huge donations to the Tory cause and then picking up the company on the cheap.

Alas, Labour seems to think that RBS owns Legal & General, another donor to Tory funds. Furthermore, Hanson has no connection with Eversholt except through a former director who is chairman of the latter in a private capacity. Careless; except that the information was handed to Labour by the Department of Transport itself. It may be August, but there must be someone still awake out there.

CU plays down notion of bid for rival insurer

BY MARIANNE CURPHEN

COMMERCIAL UNION is predicting further consolidation in the insurance sector following the merger of Royal Insurance and Sun Alliance.

However, at the presentation of yesterday's interim results, Peter Foster, the composite's finance director, played down suggestions that CU was about to acquire a rival insurer. "CU is not an acquisitive company by nature and the candidate would have to be a good business at the right price and fit with our existing strategy," he said. CU's current strategy is to develop the life business internationally and improve the quality of its general insurance portfolio.

CU announced that it was

Salomon sells mortgage arm

BY ANNE ASHWORTH

SALOMON, the American banking group, has ended its ill-fated foray into the UK home loans market with the sale of The Mortgage Corporation Group (TMC). First National, the Republic of Ireland's largest building society, is paying £53 million for the 10-year-old business, a centralised lender without a branch network.

The next stop for the ambitious First National may be the acquisition of a UK building society. John Smyth, chief executive, also said that he did not rule out becoming a bank.

TMC, which has 25,000 borrowers, will be merged with Mortgage Trust. First National's existing UK subsidiary based in Epsom, Surrey. The move trebles the size of the society's UK assets to £1.7 billion, but First National will still have less than one per cent of the UK market. The Mortgage

increasing its dividend in spite of a dent in first-half profits caused by weather losses and bomb blasts. Pre-tax operating profit fell by £21 million, to £216 million, in the six months to June 30 after weather claims in the United States and the UK increased by £56 million. The Docklands and Manchester bombs caused a further £9 million loss.

Strong performances from the composite's operations in France and the Netherlands failed to offset the general insurance losses, and profits for the general insurance sector were £173 million for the six-month period, compared with £236 million last year.

However, the life sector performed strongly: the

worldwide life operations, which account for 43 per cent of business, were up 14 per cent to £117 million, with a particularly good performance from Delta Lloyd in the Netherlands. Overall, new life annual premiums increased by 30 per cent and single premiums by 10 per cent.

John Carter, chief executive, said that CU was "actively looking to develop new life operations, with the emphasis on Eastern Europe and Asia".

Mr Foster said he expected the life sector to grow quickly, particularly in Europe, and could envisage a time when life business accounted for a larger proportion of premium income. He did not rule out the acquisition of a mutual life insurer in the UK, but said prices were high at present.

CU believes that private motor premiums in the UK may rise slightly this year, while household rates have fallen 10 per cent and commercial rates are, on average, 5 per cent lower than for the same period last year.

The interim dividend has been increased from 10.1p per share to 11.45p, although the earnings per share has slipped from 26.4p to 20p. At June 30, Commercial Union had worldwide total assets of £57 billion, and additional funds under management of £10 billion.

Tempus, page 26



John Carter, chief executive, who said that CU was seeking new life operations

Fewer breaks add up for Airtours

BY MARIANNE CURPHEN

SHARES in Airtours, the tour operator, rose 20p to a 52-week high of 55p yesterday after the company said that cutting the number of holidays on sale and raising prices appeared to be paying off. The optimism also lifted the share prices of First Choice and Inspirations, two rival operators.

UK tour operating profits for the three months to June 30 were up £3.9 million to £10.9 million. Harry Coe, financial director, said holidays were

currently selling for an average £290 per person, compared with £230 this time last year during the worst summer trading for ten years.

Just over one million holidays are estimated to be unsold at present. In July and August last year nearly three million were dumped on the market at very low prices, most operators failing to break even on many holidays.

In order to prevent a repeat of 1995, UK tour operators this year raised prices by 9 per cent and cut capacity by 10 per cent. Around 8.5 million holi-

days were on sale at the beginning of 1996, 1.5 million fewer than last year.

Airtours said summer 1996 bookings were 16 per cent below the previous year, although some of this was due to the reduction in capacity. Profit before tax for the quarter was up 47 per cent to £19.7 million (1995: £13.4 million) on turnover of £485.2 million (1995: £361.6 million).

Profits from Airtours' Scandinavian operations were up by £1.7 million to £5.0 million and the company is stepping up its expansion into Canada

by buying Alta, a large Toronto regional tour operator for £10 million in cash. It already owns Sunquest Vacations in Canada.

Mr Coe said bookings for 1996-97 showed significant increases over the previous year and he expected rival tour operators to maintain the number of holidays on sale for next year at 8.5 million, rather than increasing them.

Carnival, the largest cruise company in the world, holds a 29.6 per cent stake in Airtours and the City believes it will eventually make a full bid.

Liberty Int in pension venture

BY SARAH CUNNINGHAM

LIBERTY International, the South African-controlled financial services group, is planning to launch a pensions company this year to sell its products through shopping centres such as Lakeside, in Essex, and the MetroCentre, Gateshead.

Liberty owns 72 per cent of Capital Shopping Centres, which operates the MetroCentre, Lakeside, and the Glades, in Bromley, and the Harlequin, Watford. Liberty has cash of £550 million after selling its half-share in SunLife last year.

The new company will also look to enter the corporate pensions market. Its launch will be in the last quarter of this year. David Fischel, Liberty managing director, said, "Liberty will invest an initial £50 million in the pensions company."

A strong performance by CSC, which reported sharply higher profits this week, fuelled a 12 per cent rise in Liberty's pre-tax profits to £56.1 million, in the half year to June 30. A 7.25p interim dividend, up from 6.6p, is due on October 8.

OPEN FOR BUSINESS



STOCK MARKET



KAREN ZAGOR

Reuters shares surge on talk of Reed takeover bid

REUTERS led blue chip stocks higher yesterday after rumours that Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publishing and information group, is planning to announce a major acquisition or merger plan today when it releases its mid-year results. Reuters closed 22p higher at 739p, with the rumours more than compensating for the stock going ex-dividend.

Pearson, which was also the subject of the Reed Elsevier rumour, firmed 9p to 654p. The shares have been strong since Monday's interim results and news that Pearson had sold its Westminster Press business to Newsquest for more than expected. Reed International, which jointly owns Reed Elsevier, added 21p to 1,150p. Reed is expected to unveil solid pre-tax profits when it posts its interim results today.

Elsewhere attention turned to the Bank of England quarterly *Inflation Report*. The market has been waiting all week for the report, but when it arrived traders found they had already anticipated most of the comments. The report's cautious view of interest rates left traders unmoved.

Ahead of the Bank of England report, the FT-SE 100 moved above 3,800. It held on to its gains throughout the afternoon to end the day at 3,811.1, up 22.7 points.

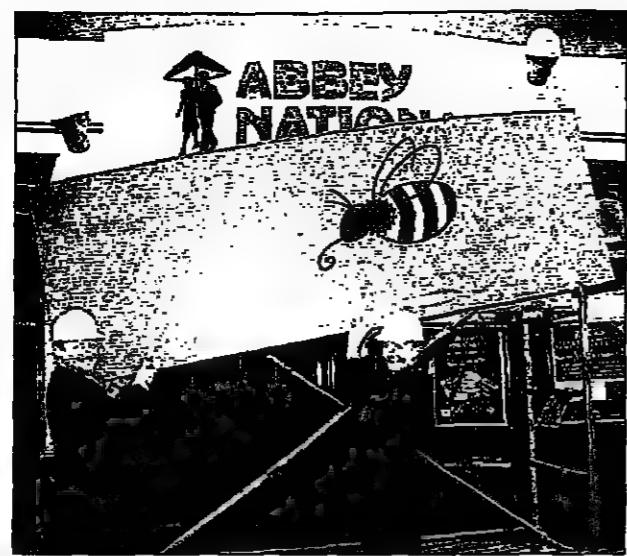
Equities might have ended even higher, but some mid-morning losses on Wall Street took the wind out of the UK market's sails.

"The UK market could get squeezed higher, but I don't trust it," said one trader, noting that volume was not substantial. "It's a very tricky market and things could move very quickly when more people come in."

Blenheim, the exhibitions company, languished at 413p, down 4p. Earlier in the year shares soared on speculation that Reed was about to bid for the company, but so far Reed has not confirmed its interest.

Also in the publishing arena Metal Bulletin added 63p to 1063p, setting a high for the year, after reporting a 39 per cent improvement in first-half profits. Emap, which has a 21 per cent stake in Metal Bulletin, rose 22.5p to 685p.

Share buybacks continued to be a trading theme. Crown Eyeglass was one of the biggest risers of the day, climbing 25p or 12 per cent to 235p after



All change: Lord Tugendhat, Abbey chairman, left, and Peter Birch, chief executive, rename a branch. Abbey shares fell 14p

revealing that it hopes to gain approval for a 15 per cent share buyback.

On the other hand, the absence of a buyback contributed to a 14p decline in Abbey National shares to 587p. Although Abbey posted a 16 per cent improvement in first-half profits, news that the bank does not plan to embark on a buyback programme hurt

year high of 551p after reporting sharp gains in third-quarter profits and noting that winter bookings were significantly ahead of last year. The company's strong interim results prompted analysts to upgrade their earnings forecasts for the year. Analysts were also bullish about the company's purchase of Canada's Alba Tours International, which is expected to make solid contributions.

ICI moved 10p higher to 790p. Some traders attributed the rise to rumours of a pending share buyback, while others noted that there was speculation that ICI might merge with a German company, perhaps Schering.

Bids were in the air in the water sector, where traders noted that a number of stocks have good yields and were offering good value. Severn Trent, up 18p to 597p, and Wessex Water, up 8p to 345p, were among the candidates mentioned.

Electricity companies also moved on expectations of more bids. East Midlands advanced 14p to 597p. London Electricity was 18p higher at 638p and Southern gained 21p to 682p. Northern Electric moved 14p to 548p after announcing plans to increase its dividend by at least 7 per cent until 2000.

Volatility continued at British Biotech, formerly the stock market darling. Yesterday day-trading took its toll and the shares eased up to 229p. An analyst's "sell" rating on the stock contributed to the erosion.

Among other biotechnology issues, Chirapharm slid 11p to 369p as bid hopes flagged, while Celltech lost 10p to 540p.

Dampened bid expectations also led to a 4p drop at Cadent Schweppes to 516p. Dampened bid expectations also led to a 4p drop at Cadent Schweppes to 516p. □ GILT-EDGED: The Bank of England's latest verdict on inflation hit the short end of the market, leading to a slight flattening out of the yield curve.

In the futures pit, the September series of the long gilt finished £1 higher at £101.8p, with volume of 45,000. The Treasury 8 per cent 2001 eased £1.11 to £103.1, while the Treasury 8 per cent 2005 added £1.11 to £99.1p.

□ NEW YORK: A morning rally on Wall Street gave way to profit-taking and by midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 2.22 points lower at 5,693.89.

Shares in Trocadero hit a high of 74p, up 1p, as rumours intensified that Coca-Cola and Pepsi were seeking to get involved. The London Trocadero centre is scheduled to open Sega World, a virtual reality theme park, next month. Shares in the company have traded as low as 45.95p this year.

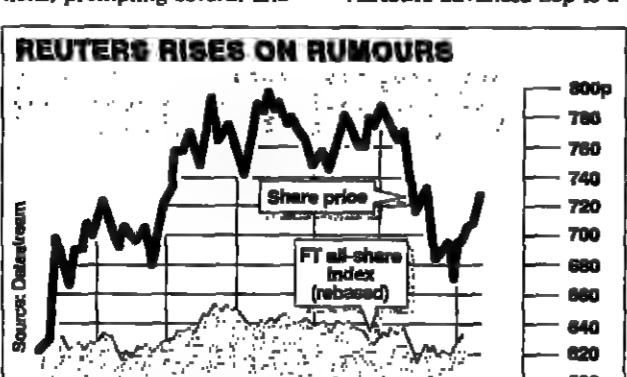
prices. Traders also noted that the stock was subject to profit-taking. Abbey this week completed its merger with N&P, the old National and Provincial building society.

Profit-taking also took a bite out of Standard Chartered shares, which fell 13p to 699p. The company's interim figures were at the top end of expectations, prompting several ana-

sists. Shares added 17p to 1,155p.

There was good news for British Petroleum, which had been awaiting European Union approval for its planned marketing partnership with Mobil, the US oil giant. News that the deal had been approved added 3.5p to BP's share price to 665.5p.

Airtours advanced 20p to a



average of 1,000p. The market's response was mixed.

Official figures showed a 2.1 per cent improvement in first-half profits, up 1.1 per cent to 1,047.5m.

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THE
TIMES
CITY
DIARY

Power play at
the Games

NATIONAL POWER chiefs were rather taken aback by a spot of corporate hospitality that recently came their way. John Baker, chairman, and Keith Henry, chief executive, were both invited to cheer on the British team at the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

Their hosts? Southern Company — the US utility which only a few months ago made undesired overtures to bid for the English generator. The invitations were, of course, politely declined.

Going global

AFTER only a month at NatWest Markets, Dame Pauline Neville-Jones has been promoted to Head of Global Business Strategy. The former Foreign Office political director says she is looking forward to continuing her role in developing the firm's international governmental strategy, while working on more long term issues from September. But this leaves the effervescent dame with even less time to indulge her favourite passions for cooking and gardening. "I was apprehensive to begin with, and it has been a very steep learning curve," she says. "But there's one thing I'm absolutely certain about — I'm not bored."

Cake escape

CHIEF executives and chairmen, hailed as "party poopers", are forsaking the UK to celebrate their birthdays abroad. Sir Richard Sykes, deputy chairman and chief executive of Glaxo Wellcome, turned 54 yesterday, while on a three-week holiday in Sardinia with his daughter, John Young, chairman of Young and Company's Brewery, was with his step-daughter and four grandsons on the East Coast of the US when he hit 75 yesterday. But John Jackson, company secretary at British Gas, took refuge at home with his two children in Sussex, to mark his 48th birthday yesterday.



Drawing power
AS PART of a study into changes within the public sector, Bristol Business School invited local government and National Health Service managers to express their feelings towards change through drawings. One manager drew football players lying dead on the pitch, while another sketched a sinister figure decapitating a maiden. A chief executive, who found it difficult to produce a drawing at all, wrote "challenge, excitement, fun, humour, communication, and enthusiasm" in great big letters. As an after thought, he added, in tiny letters, "anxiety and doubt".

Tell-tale

PRIZE for the most blatant disregard of client confidentiality goes to surveyors DTZ Debenham Thorpe, announcing the purchase of the Royal Bank of Canada Centre by their client, DIFC. "The actual price has not been released, but is believed to be over £88 million." What else are they not telling us?

MORAG PRESTON

ECONOMIC VIEW



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Bank has been crying wolf but is still worth heeding

Serious questions are raised by its argument that the British economy needs higher interest rates

Public disagreements between informed and well-intentioned people are one of the essential features of a civilised society. There is nothing alarming or even disconcerting about the criticisms of Kenneth Clarke's monetary policy disclosed yesterday by the Bank of England. In fact, the Bank's decision to air its disagreement with the Chancellor is forceful as it did in its quarterly *Inflation Report* should be seen as a sign of the unaccustomed confidence and maturity that Britain's policymakers have started to show in the management of our economic affairs.

Where once decisions on interest rates were made by an arbitrary dictator from the Chancellor or the Prime Minister, there now seems to be a genuine dialogue between a highly political Chancellor and a very professional Bank of England. This continuous debate between politics and economics has not, surprisingly, delivered better results than Britain's old system of leaving everything to the whim of the Chancellor. To judge by the relative performance of the British and German economies, our approach to monetary policy also seems preferable to the German (and European) system of giving dictatorial powers to supposedly infallible bureaucrats.

Against that background, there are three serious questions raised by the Bank's argument that the British economy needs higher interest rates.

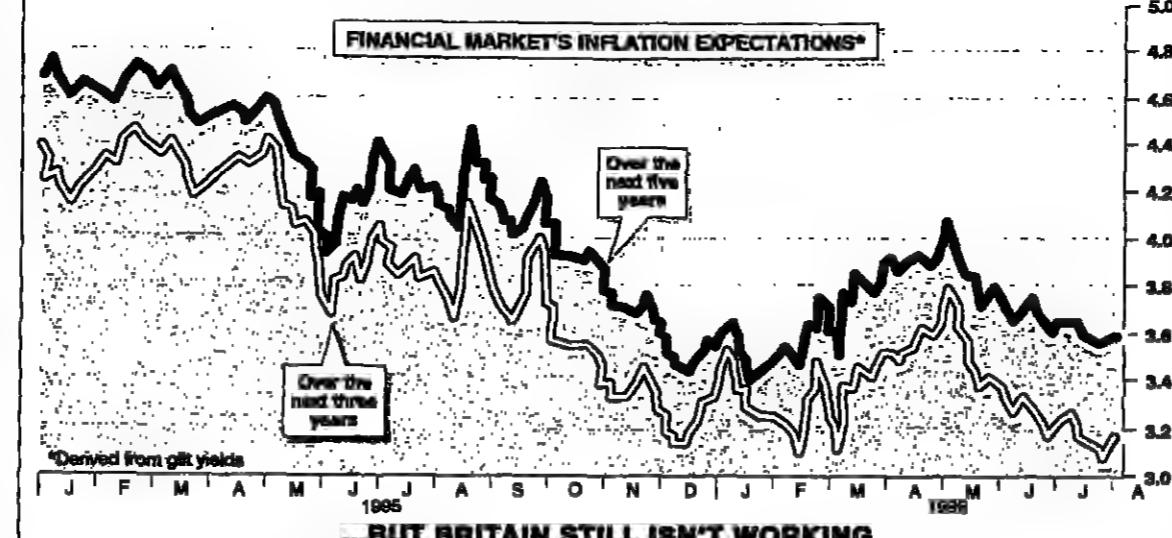
First, is this the considered view of a majority of senior Bank officials, or simply the personal opinion of one man who always seems to favour higher interest rates, Eddie George, the Bank Governor? Secondly, are the risks of weakening the economy now greater or less than the dangers of provoking higher inflation? Thirdly, can the Bank even consider the risks of an economic slowdown, given that its mandate from the Government is to report on inflation and nothing else?

While the second question is obviously the most important, the others deserve a few comments. Yesterday's call for higher interest rates was based on the Bank's view that the economy is now growing "above trend" (or soon will be). Yet the *Inflation Report* contained no discussion of what this trend growth rate might be, or of whether the economy is at or below this trend. The Bank's reticence contrasted embarrassingly with *How Fast Can the Economy Grow?*, the excellent report on this crucial point produced for the Chancellor by his panel of independent economic advisers.

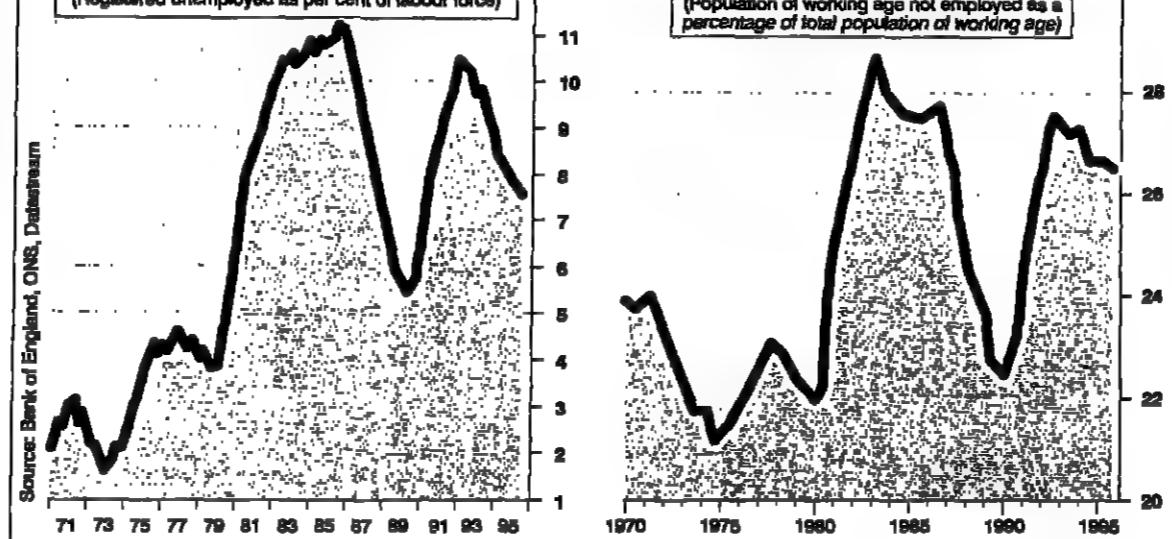
Five of the six "wise people" judged that the economy could grow by about 3 per cent a year for three to five years without generating additional inflationary pressures. By contrast, the Bank's analysis seemed to assume that any growth rate much higher than 2 per cent would automatically produce inflation. The Bank's failure to engage in this all important economic argument rather suggested that the analysis of the *Inflation Report* was derived from Mr George's demand for a rate rise, rather than the other way round.

The credibility of Britain's monetary framework would be greatly enhanced if such suspicions were allayed once and for all. The way to do that would be for Britain to borrow two institutional ideas from the world's only successful

INFLATION PROSPECTS HAVE IMPROVED...



...BUT BRITAIN STILL ISN'T WORKING



central bank — the US Federal Reserve Board. The Bank's view on monetary policy should be formed not by an individual, but by a group consisting of senior officials — with their votes recorded and their individual views made public. Even more importantly, the Bank's mandate should also be extended. The objective of monetary policy is not just to control inflation but to do so in conditions of the fullest possible employment and the strongest possible economic growth.

The Bank's advice must explicitly recognise the short-term trade-offs between inflation and unemployment. And interest rates have to be kept in balance with policy on taxes and public spending. (This is the strongest economic argument against splitting responsibility for macroeconomic policy between the Government and an independent central bank). The litmus test of monetary policy is how it affects the real economy of employment and production. This is why

Alan Greenspan and his colleagues at the Fed base most of their judgments on monetary aggregates and bond-market expectations but on such down-to-earth indicators of economic activity as freight-car loadings, vendor delivery times and payroll employment. It is also why the Bank devotes the great bulk of each quarter's *Inflation Report* to a detailed analysis of industrial and labour market trends. But as long as the conclusions are expressed solely in terms of achieving inflation targets, the Bank will never overcome the perception that it is biased in favour of deflation and against growth.

That brings us to the key question

about the Bank's call for higher interest rates. Has Britain now reached the point in the economic cycle when accelerating inflation becomes a greater danger to long-term prosperity than unemployment and declining growth?

Until recently that question was hardly worth asking. Ever since 1990, the economy has clearly been floundering, unemployment has been unacceptably high and unused capacity has been standing idle for all to see, whether in the form of empty factories or boarded-up shops in the high streets. The Bank has persistently underestimated the downward pressure that this excess capacity and this reserve army of idle workers would exert on prices, especially after the deregulation and union reforms of the 1980s. The Bank has twice cried wolf about interest rates in the past two years and has lost much of its credibility as a result. But in Aesop's fable the wolf did eventually come. So is inflation about to sink out of the woods now?

that the Bank is crying wolf for the third time? My personal view is that the British economy is now in the early phases of a strong upswing, that growth will average well above 3 per cent in the next two years and that inflation will probably accelerate slightly. Of course, there is nothing magical about 3 per cent. The six wise people notwithstanding, it may well be that Britain today — in many ways a totally different economy from the one that existed in the 1970s and early 1980s — is capable of non-inflationary growth well above 3 per cent.

This certainly seems to be what financial markets now believe. The

Bank's own analysis of expectations in the financial markets shows that investors are increasingly convinced that inflation will remain low for years ahead (see top chart). Probably the main reason for this confidence is also cited by the Bank: the reserve army of unused labour is far larger than the unemployment figures suggest. In spite of the sharp fall in official unemployment, the number of people of working age who are not in jobs has hardly diminished since the end of the recession (see lower charts). If labour demand picked up sufficiently, there is every reason to suppose that millions of workers who have taken early retirement, been classified as disabled, or sunk into the black economy, would come back into the market — maintaining the downward pressure on wages.

How far unemployment can fall and how fast the economy can grow without triggering too much inflation is something that can be discovered only from experience and economic policy should not restrict growth to some arbitrary "speed limit" plucked off a computer printout by the Bank, the Chancellor, or anybody else.

However, to discover the economy's true capacity for long-term growth it is equally important to avoid any sudden inflationary eruption. Any further reduction in interest rates, therefore, seems unnecessary and risky, especially in the context of a government deficit that is still far too large.

This does not mean, however, that an increase in interest rates would be justified now or any time in the near future. When the time comes to restrain demand the way to do it will be through tougher policies on taxes or public spending, not through a return to high interest rates. Low interest rates should be the lasting reward for low inflation and responsible fiscal policy: that is the real message the Bank should be trying to get across.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Plea to restore link between pension and average earnings is put to the politicians

From Ms Maureen Colquhoun

Sir, Pensioners have taken a back seat on party political agendas for long enough and it is overwhelmingly important that the next Government re-establishes the link between pensions and average earnings.

We have written to all 651 members of the current House of Commons and it is clear that the Government and the Opposition have no intention

of doing so, although a handful of Conservative MPs and 138 Labour MPs have indicated that they would if they could.

So what is the problem? Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley tells Conservative MPs that £10 billion would be needed to implement a liveable pension. Labour's Shadow Social Security Minister said recently: "Decisions on the exact role of the state pension, like other spending

decisions, can only be taken in light of what the country can afford." This means they are not going to do it, which is a disgraceful U-turn after all Labour has said in opposition about restoring the link.

Yes, full restoration of the lost pension income immediately would be expensive, but not as high as the £10 billion alleged by Mr Lilley as this assumes a higher pension for married couples than would have resulted from not abol-

ishing the earnings link. His argument is a political red herring because it suggests that all past losses must be made good immediately, and clearly this is not affordable in one go. The vital first step is to restore the earnings link for future upratings at a cost in the first year of under half a billion pounds per annum.

It is time for the Government to provide a state pension that gives pensioners dignity and choice with free

loss, damage or notable inconvenience caused by a breach of duty on the member bank's part: it is a voluntary code.

On becoming an institution authorised to carry on a deposit-taking business on its acquisition by Lloyds as a subsidiary of a wholly-owned subsidiary on August 1 1995, C&G is bound under the Banking Act not to disclose any information relating to the business or other affairs of any person, without the consent of that person. Anyone who discloses information in contravention of the Restriction on Disclosure of Information

shall be guilty of an offence and liable to criminal penalties. It is the Banking Act which it is the duty of the Bank of England to supervise. The Banking Ombudsman's Scheme is voluntary.

The voluntary code says

banks and societies will observe a strict duty of customer confidentiality and not disclose details of customers' accounts to any third party, including other companies in the same group. Upon confidentiality rests the integrity of the whole banking system. Earlier this year I wanted assurance from C&G that, as a

depositor, the member bank is bound by section 82 of the Banking Act concerning restriction on disclosure of information: I have the letter of confirmation. Lloyds Bank, however, two weeks later wrote to me that "the directors of Cheltenham & Gloucester plc are unlikely to receive information for the purposes of the Banking Act and section 82 is therefore unlikely to be applicable to them." The paradox is apparent: the reality is Lloyds Bank "is not prepared to provide a confidential memorandum prepared by the bank for a third party" to me.

the owner of the assets involved; and Andrew Longhurst told me on June 27 1996 that C&G has not acted in contravention of its undertaking as to confidentiality and section 82 of the Banking Act has no application.

There is, circulating be-

Standard Life and demutualisation

From Mr J. Stretton

Sir, Pennington severely misrepresents Standard Life's position on mutuality ("Standard democracy", July 30). In wishing to remain mutual we are emphatically not trying to be "shielded from the rigours of the stock market". We observe the same rules on disclosure as would apply were we a proprietary company and we submit ourselves to the same firm line on other corporate governance issues

that we encourage in companies in which we invest.

Our view is that a well run mutual life insurance company will do better for its policyholders than a well run proprietary company. There is overwhelming historic evidence to support our view and anyone arguing for demutualisation needs to give reasons to believe the contrary. Pennington provides none.

Finally, to produce through faulty reasoning the lure of very large potential windfalls to policyholders is irresponsible. Normally and for good reasons policyholders receive no cash payments when a life company demutualises, but instead are compensated by the addition of bonuses to their policies. Over the term to each policy's termination, policyholders would give up to shareholders more than they gained through demutualisation.

Yours faithfully,

J. STRETTON

Chief Executive,

UK Operations,

Standard Life,

3 George Street,

Edinburgh.

Young guns to lead corporate Britain into 21st century

Des Dearlove on the emergence of a new generation of chief executives

Dedicated followers of corporate fashion may have noticed that chief executives seem to be getting younger. A report published this week makes it official. It confirms the emergence of a new generation at the helm of Britain's top companies.

Today's more youthful chief executive is aged between 39 and 55, and is likely to have reached his first chief executive role earlier in his career than his predecessor. There are signs, too, that the youth culture is accelerating, with the rise of a new breed of "super CEOs" — chief executive officers — younger still, better educated, with more international experience and a track record that reads like a *Who's Who* of the corporate world.

The youngest group comprises CEOs aged between 39 and 45. In spite of their youth, they have worked for more companies than their older counterparts, staying an average of less than five years, have more international experience and, on the whole, are better educated.

Archie Norman, at Asda, and Martin Taylor, at Barclays Bank, are seen as classic examples of the "super CEO". Their arrival at the head of UK companies, she believes, bodes well for the country's competitive position. This collection of "super CEOs", Dr Marx says, make up "a highly impressive group, who strive for breadth of experience and are better equipped to deal with the globalisation of business in the 21st century".

Dr Marx adds: "They are adept at creating their own opportunities, rather than simply moving up the career ladder in the old way. They are intellectually curious and enjoy the risk involved with running a company. These people are real movers and shakers."

"Super CEOs" are also more likely to have an Oxford or Cambridge degree. Overall, however, the study found that the time it takes to reach the top is not influenced by having a university degree, regardless of its origin. Of the 92 chief executives profiled in the study, only 17 were Oxford or Cambridge graduates, with a further 44 having graduated from other universities and the remaining 31 — more than a third of those sampled — having no university education at all.

On the whole, CEOs educated at Oxford or Cambridge seem to fare better when it comes to additional roles, such as non-executive directorships, suggesting the "old boy network" is still thriving.



Marx: identified trend towards 'super CEOs'

ACCOUNTANCY

Keeping it simple can pay

David Allvey finds that only a few companies are putting their shareholders' information needs first

In the need to comply with the growing volume of new accounting requirements, companies have been neglecting the simpler information needs of private, or non-specialist, shareholders.

There is so much new technical information in company accounts today that shareholders find it difficult to interpret. That is because recent developments in financial reporting have paid close attention to accounting theory. The standard setters have tried to redress the abuses that were evident in the large corporate collapses of the late Eighties through more rigorous standards and an increase in disclosure. Post-Cadbury, the corporate world has leant strongly towards a more-is-better approach, further bloatting the annual package of information received by shareholders.

A side-effect of this approach has been a huge increase in the detailed technical information companies are now expected to supply in their full report and accounts. Only a few have attempted to put their shareholders' information needs first to redress the imbalance between adequate financial disclosure and accessibility. Since



1990, companies have been able to issue summary financial statements (SFS), containing summaries of the directors' report, profit and loss account and balance sheet, in the place of, or as well as, the full report and accounts. Yet, as shown in the English ICA's report *Summary Financial Statements: The Way Forward*, only about 30 major companies have decided to offer this simplified report to shareholders.

The experience of companies that have adopted the SFS is largely positive. In almost every case, 90 per cent or more of shareholders opted for the summary when it was offered. They found that shareholders had little interest in the technical content of the full report and preferred to concentrate on key items such as profits, dividends and general descriptions of performance. Our research suggests that the "results at a glance", the chairman's statement and the chief executive's review are the most widely read, with the financial statements among the least read.

Companies adopting the SFS have been able to cut costs significantly. Even though companies have to find out from their shareholders whether

they can supply them with a summary, simplifications made to that process by the Department of Trade and Industry in September 1995 have paved the way for a cheaper, more effective system. The DTI has scrapped the need for companies to provide share-

holders with the production of the summary but, with 90 per cent of shareholders opting to receive it without the supporting full report, BAT saved £200,000 on postage, printing and paper costs alone. Similarly, Pilkington, the international glass company, estimated that it made an annual £43,000 saving on printing and postage. On average, companies have saved 20 to 33 per cent in costs.

Most shareholders were happy too. Of those who received the summary, three out of four thought it kept them abreast of what was going on, with one in four claiming to use it for share-trading decisions.

It is ironic, however, that the principal drawback to wider adoption of the summary is that it is becoming too lengthy. Most companies produce an integrated summary and an additional document that makes up a full report and accounts. While the original intention was to create brief, easy to use information, many summaries now run to 40 pages.

So it is time for all companies to take stock again. But with most private shareholders being interested only in key information, companies should remember that the summary provides a cheap and effective vehicle to keep it in touch with its shareholders.

The author is finance director at BAT and was chairman of the English ICA working party that produced the summary financial statements report

Too many regulators confuse the meaning

ONE OF the problems of European policy-making is understanding precisely what anyone means. After the words have been fed through numerous approving committees and translated this way and that, it is often difficult to discern meaning in the final pronouncements.

Within any single language and culture you can pick up nuance and understand no such chance. And so, sadly, it is with the latest Green Paper on the role, position and liability of the statutory auditor in the European Union, issued by the European Commission. It covers everything from corporate governance, the independence of the auditor, through to fraud and liability. But at the end, you cannot be sure what anyone really thinks on any of these issues.

Take corporate governance as an example. There is some good debate. Much of it is taken rather further than the more timid souls in the UK would like. Earlier in the report, at paragraph 3.29, it ratifies the position on fraud.

The public expects the opportunities for fraud to be minimised," it states. And then says that directors must be responsible for setting up internal controls to minimise such opportunities, and that auditors should confirm that the directors have done a decent job in doing so. All good decisive stuff.

But then in the corporate governance section of the report you can feel the hands being spread wide and the shoulders being shrugged as paragraph 4.28 starts: "It is difficult to deal at EU level with matters of corporate governance." If you can't deal with corporate governance at a European level you wonder why this Green Paper has been issued at all. Presumably it is just as difficult to deal with the wider audit issues.

This is another aspect to such reports. Having been through so many different hands in their preparation there is always a feeling that in the end it was scissors and paste that triumphed. One bit of the report talks of encouraging advances while another says nothing can be done.

The report also produces evidence to support another theory. Brussels came late to the whole issue of audit. Accountancy as a profession is tiny and peripheral in most

European countries. It is only dominant and prominent in the UK, this awkward offshore island, in the old Commonwealth countries and, of course, in the US and hence anywhere that multinationals flourish.

So European law has had to take opposing attitudes. There is no point in having a Commission perspective if it is seen to rubberstamp American-dominated processes. So it has to oppose them, ignore what has been built up over a long period of sophisticated adult practice and regulation and put forward another solution.

The problem is that there are only so many solutions and most have been tried and discarded long before Brussels started worrying about them. Take, for example, the saga of rotation of auditors. This, as anyone in what is known as the Anglo-Saxon auditing world knows, does not work as a method of strengthening audit independence. Studies show that, if anything, the process of changing a company's auditors every few years actually increases the likelihood of fraud, as a regular cycle of new auditors struggle to get a good grip in the first years of the assignment.

But this did not stop Brussels recommending it as the panacea some years ago. Now they have come to the same conclusion as the rest of us. Paragraph 4.15 has to admit that "the arguments in favour of such a system are not conclusive". Instead the report suggests that "a solution which could enhance the perception of the auditor's objectivity, without causing the efficiency and quality drawbacks of firm rotation, could consist in setting up a rotation of audit partners within the same firm". Or to put it another way: do what the UK does.

The position on liability is the same. The analysis is clear: "It would seem reasonable that the liability of the auditor should be limited to amounts which reflect his degree of negligence." But again, "action at EU level in this field is likely to be difficult". If it wasn't difficult it wouldn't be a problem.

It greatly pains me in these fevered times to appear to be taking an anti-European stance. But the root of the problem is regulators. The job of regulators is to protect the public. Too many regulators see their job as having to come up with more regulations.

The true test of independence

GRANT THORNTON is rightly proud of becoming the first auditor appointed to audit an auditor. It will start crawling over the figures of KPMG Audit soon. For Grant Thornton, it vindicates its insistence that its niche market is owner-managed businesses. Colin Sharman, KPMG's senior partner, is not keen on emphasising that his fellow 565 partners own the place

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

and have a voice in its running, but if an accounting partnership is not an archetypal owner-managed business it would be hard to say what was. The Grant Thornton partner who takes on the job is David Spence, who is not only on the ladder for the Scots ICA presidency, but chairs the UK profession's ethics watchdog. Sharman said the firm was impressed

by Grant Thornton's "robust independence". The first audit report goes public next year.

Watch this space

REBEL members of the English ICA noticed that while the chief executive of the certified accountants revealed her pay in their annual report this did not happen at the English ICA. But yesterday's institute

On the line

COOPERS & Lybrand continues to take its exalted headquarters position atop Charing Cross station seriously.

Last week, the music to be heard when on hold in its telephone response system was Rachmaninov's second piano concerto — the theme from *Brief Encounter*, probably the most famous railway film of all. Next week: the theme from *Thomas the Tank Engine*.

ROBERT BRUCE

council meeting was told that "a Cadbury-style statement on governance" should be included with next year's report and accounts. There is not a word on whether the salary of Andrew Colquhoun, chief executive, will be revealed. As it is the formidable reforming Dame Sheila Masters, of KPMG, who is driving this one we expect every used pound will be accounted for.

ROBERT BRUCE

House of Lords

Council responsibility for payment

Chief Adjudication Officer and Another v Quinn

Same v Gibson

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Mustill, Lord Lynn of Hadley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Hope of Craighead [Speeches July 24]

Where a local authority made arrangements with a voluntary organisation for the provision of residential accommodation for persons in need of care and attention, which was not otherwise available to them, under such arrangements the local authority had to make payments to the organisation in respect of that residential accommodation, as provided by section 26 of the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended by section 108(6) of, and paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 21 to the Local Government Act 1972, and section 108(5) of, and paragraph 10(1) of Schedule 13 in the Children Act 1989; provides: "(1) ... a local authority may with the approval of the secretary of state ... make arrangements for providing (a) residential accommodation for persons aged 18 or over who, by reason of age, infirmity or any other circumstances are in need of care and attention which is not otherwise available to them..."

"The House of Lords so held dismissing appeals by the appellants, the Chief Adjudication Officer and the Secretary of State for Social Security, from the Court of Appeal [Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls and Lord Justice McCowan and Lord Justice Hirst] (unreported, April 15, 1994; CA Civ Div Transcript No 439 of 1994) which had dismissed the appellants' appeals from the decisions of the Social Security Commissioner, Mr J. Mitchell.

The claimant in the first appeal, Miss Jane Harris, since deceased and represented by Mr Douglas Quinn, sought income support. Her claim was accepted by the Adjudication Officer who decided that she was in residential accommodation at Heathlands, one of the homes run by the Dorset Trust, a voluntary organisation, and transferred to it by the local authority, to the Court of Appeal. That decision was upheld by the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

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Law Report August 8 1996

Attendance allowance for residents

Steane v Chief Adjudication Officer and Another

Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Mustill, Lord Lynn of Hadley, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead and Lord Hope of Craighead [Speeches July 24]

Arrangements for residential accommodation for those in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them under section 26 of the National Assistance Act 1948 should comply with section 20(2) of Schedule 21 to the Local Government Act 1972, and section 20(1) of Schedule 13 in the Children Act 1989; provides: "(1) ... a local authority may with the approval of the secretary of state to the other party to the arrangement for residential accommodation for those in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them under section 26 of the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended by section 108(6) of, and paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 21 to the Local Government Act 1972, and section 108(5) of, and paragraph 10(1) of Schedule 13 in the Children Act 1989; provides: "(1) ... a local authority may with the approval of the secretary of state to the other party to the arrangement for residential accommodation for those in need of care and attention not otherwise available to them under section 26 of the National Assistance Act 1948, as amended by section 108(6) of, and paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 21 to the Local Government Act 1972, and section 108(5) of, and paragraph 10(1) of Schedule 13 in the Children Act 1989; 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■ FILM 1

So much hokum, so much palaver, so much of everything: it's all there in the sci-fi blockbuster *Independence Day*



■ FILM 2

John Sayles's latest, *The Secret of Roan Inish*, creeps up and charms you with its blend of myth and realism

THE TIMES ARTS



■ FILM 3

Chekhov's *Uncle Vanya* is transposed to North Wales, in the Anthony Hopkins vehicle *August*



■ FILM 4

With a cast like robots and a script short on jokes, there isn't much to recommend in *The Stupids*

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees *Independence Day* put the cause of possible intergalactic co-existence back several aeons

Strangers are just fiends we do not know

On the phone to his Secretary of Defense, the President of America asks: "Could you say that again?" This is understandable: at the very least you have to gulp if someone tells you that aliens are entering our atmosphere in spaceships 15 miles wide. But then the entire movie of *Independence Day* demands a double-take. So much hokum. So much palaver. So much of everything: exploding buildings, marauding fireballs, aerial dogfights, military hardware, a population stampede, plus gung-ho rhetoric that would not disgrace John Wayne's *The Green Berets*. The alien invaders mean to wipe out the world; this movie aims to wipe out audiences, or at least leave them exhausted.

The director Roland Emmerich and his production partner Dean Devlin, emboldened by the surprise success of their last extravaganza, *Stargate*, know precisely what they are up to. They are mixing genres. The plot returns us to 1950s sci-fi, when unfriendly visitors from outer space parked their saucers, hatched their pod people, and tickled America's latent paranoia about foreign enemies. But that is only the plot. From its physical trappings you would actually take *Independence Day* to be a war movie, a monster movie, a 1970s disaster movie and a video game, all bundled together to make an outsize, indigestible popcorn feast.

Like the best, or worst, disaster movies (the distinction is tenuous), no star gets to act high and mighty. Saving the world from destruction requires team effort, spread among a rainbow coalition of races and religions. There is Bill Pullman as the affable President, a former Gulf War pilot currently fighting the

Independence Day
Odeon Leicester Square
12, 140 mins
Cuisine, indigestible popcorn feast

The Secret of Roan Inish
Virgin Haymarket
PG, 103 mins
Magic and myth off the Irish coast

August
Curzon Mayfair
PG, 90 mins
Uncle Vanya goes Welsh

The Stupids
Odeon West End
PG, 94 mins
Mirthless comedy from John Landis

wimp factor in office. Jeff Goldblum injects quirky comedy as the computer genius who finds a kink in the aliens' armour and keeps up a double-act with his foppish father (Judd Hirsch).

But for many the identification figure will be Will Smith (from television's *The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air*), the cocky fighter pilot who traps a captured alien in the tentacles as he shouts a sarcastic "Welcome to Earth". Finer emotions are also squeezed in: to help with this the cast also includes estranged wives, cute children, and a dog.

Emmerich drives his gargantuan film at a steady pace as the alien invasion moves in for the kill in the days leading up to July 4, America's Independence Day. First they wreak havoc in the major cities from the massive ships that hang in the air like clouds of granite. Then they send out devilish planes that shoot down the cream of the American airforce in battles lifted

from a video game. Finally Doomsday arrives, July 4, unless Goldblum's impossible long-shot succeeds. All the time these aliens follow the Dalek creed: "Exterminate! Exterminate!" We know nothing about them, apart from their talents as extra-terrestrial locusts. This may create a spectacular adversary, but it does not allow for sophisticated drama. Sci-fi movies of the 1950s had their share of global devastation, but the stories were focused and the aliens treated with some respect. *Independence Day* improves on the Toytown spaceships and back-projection flaws of the past, but it throws away much resonance and intelligence by ignoring its own science-fiction and striving to be the biggest carnival ride of all time.

For truly imaginative fantasy this week you must turn to John Sayles's moving and beautiful *The Secret of Roan Inish*, now two years old (see interview below). No blunderbuss techniques for Sayles: this is a film that creeps up and charms you by degrees with its blend of myth and realism, its cast of fisher folk, seals, gulls and Selkies — legendary Celtic creatures, half-sea and half-human.

At first sight it seems strange to find Sayles, a mordant chronicler of American social behaviour, washed up off the Irish coast. But he has always loved the spinning of tales, the sound of people talking; and this adaptation of Rosalie K. Fry's novella pays full homage to Ireland's oral tradition as it traces the adventures of young Fiona, sent to live with her grandparents near the deserted seal island of Roan Inish.

Sayles also keeps faith with his sense of place, and his concern for characters' working lives. Other directors might use this material to slip

into a whimsical bog. Sayles stays on the ground. He revels in the magical landscapes, the mysterious light and the infinite colours of the sea, but he also shows us how cottages are whitewashed and boats tarred.

Haskell Wexler's photography is crucial to the film's success. He never gets pretty: there is a hard, clear edge to the sky, the stones, the waves and seaweed. The film's spell could also have been broken if the cast acted and spoke like prancing leprechauns. But Sayles's script is refreshingly free of Irish caricature and the sober performance of Jeni Courtney, a ten-year-old from Belfast, as the questing Fiona sets the tone for the whole cast.

The film's only problem is its audience. Although children lie at the heart of the drama, *Roan Inish* cannot be placed in a pigeonhole for kids. Hardcore Sayles fans, however, might well find its

story too slight; and the

crowds who treat movies as the modern equivalent of gladiator combat will find nothing worth stamping for. But for adults who still have their childhood inside them, and can accept the beauty of a haunting tale simply told, *The Secret of Roan Inish* is a gift

from the gods.

"He's mad — and Welsh."

Leslie Phillips says. It's a dangerous combination, and at times Anthony Hopkins's truly capering in *August* get to be too much. He makes animal noises. He waves his hands. Since Hopkins is also his own director, not much can be done to stop this, although Hopkins certainly allows the rest of the cast, among them Kate Burton, Rhian Morgan and Gawn Grainger, to bring out their finer points.

"This is *Uncle Vanya* transposed by screenwriter Julian Mitchell to a country house in North Wales at the end of the 19th century. Hopkins is the

frustrated Vanya, now christened Jean, and first introduced indolently spread out on a sofa. Phillips is the Serebryakov equivalent, the estate's absentee owner who arrives from England with his young American-born wife to play havoc in a household whose emotions are volatile enough already.

But not as bad as watching *The Stupids*. John Landis's new film, based on series of children's books about a household with a genius for grasping the wrong end of the stick, makes two big mistakes.

It went into production with a script nowhere near funny enough, even given the current fashion for dumber and dumber comedy. Landis then forced the cast to act like robots and squeeze out any resemblance to likeable human beings. The Three Stooges at their most infantile could still raise a wan smile; but you would have to be desperate, or exceptionally young, to enjoy Tom Arnold's *Stanley Stupid*.



Multicoloured skies at night, special effects co-ordinator's delight: atmospheric disturbances presage the arrival of the aliens in *Independence Day*

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'American powertrip'

SNAP VERDICT

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

INDEPENDENCE DAY

Mat Jones, 22: Rampant flag-waving and mass American patriotism are in abundance, as are the obligatory ridiculous English stereotypes. Hugely entertaining, but take water biscuits to complement the cheese.

Derek Baugh, 20: A very watchable film with phenomenal effects that make *War Of The Worlds* look like playground fistfights. However, the *Star-Spangled Banner* should have formed the entire soundtrack, such is the extent of this American powertrip.

Jane Gibson, 22: A roller-coaster of effects-induced adrenalin rushes — I think the audience was as relieved to survive as the characters. Ignore the flag-waving and laugh and love it.

Antony Wallbank, 19: You'll laugh in the right and the wrong places. You'll marvel at the gung-ho rubbish American speeches. But you won't be able to take your eyes off it.

AUGUST
Matt: You want to care about this beautifully played drama as it unfolds, but somehow you find yourself distanced.

Derek: Wonderfully photographed landscapes are effectively juxtaposed with the depiction of a living hell. Includes the ingredients to be successful, but falls short.

Jane: Anthony Hopkins confirms that he is our finest screen talent. However, it is not for a lack of good performances that the film suffers, but more because of an inability to reach the audience on an emotional level.

Antony: A pleasant directorial debut, but lacking any bite, even in the displays of envy, seduction, jealousy and the occasional flash of humour. For die-hard Hopkins fans or the members of countryside rambling clubs.

A self-made lifetime in his own legends

The Secret of Roan Inish is something of a stylistic departure for its fiercely independent maker, John Sayles. Carol Allen reports

and song is so much about loss, the place left behind, and here was a story about people who had lost their island and were wondering if they could get it back."

The Sayles family has lived in America for four generations. Sayles himself was brought up in Schenectady, New York, home of the General Electric company and once known as "the city that lights the world". "It was a working-class neighbourhood", he says, "with a lot of labour versus management tension" — a theme he later developed in *Mazewaw*, in terms of the West Virginia coal miners strike of the 1920s.

Then the plot, about a ten-year-old girl discovering the history and legends of the isolated island culture from which she springs, reminded him of the films he himself had identified with as a child — movies such as *Tiger Bay* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*, which were not children's films but had a child as protagonist. The third element he took from his personal heritage as an Irish-American.

The Selkie myth is common to the Scottish and the Irish islands. But the main reason I transposed the story from Scotland to Ireland was that Irish-American literature

sausage-maker in an Italian sausage factory on union minimum wage, which was twice what I had been making. I finished my first novel, *Pride of the Bimbos*, on unemployment insurance when I got laid off from the sausage factory."

With *Union Dues*, his second novel, Sayles also acquired an agent with film contacts, and started writing screenplays, initially for Roger Corman's low-budget film factory, the training ground for many other now-established film-makers. With his earnings from these, he financed his first movie as writer/director, *The Return of the Secaucus Seven*, a film which some have compared to *The Big Chill*.

The Big Chill is about people who've lost their idealism. The people in *Return of the Secaucus Seven* are people who are trying desperately to hold on to it in a world that's not that friendly to their ideals any more," Sayles says. "It's very much about people turn-

ing 30, when you realise the world isn't going to change the way you wanted it to when you were a young activist, which is politically what was happening at that time.

"It's one of three movies I've made that are about being a certain age. *Baby It's You* is very much a movie about being in your teens and early

twenties and that time of your life when anything seems possible and then you discover that there are walls and ceilings and things that you cannot go beyond. *Passion Fish* is about people who are turning 40, the age at which you not only realise the world is not going to change the way you want it to, but your own

life is not necessarily going to turn out the way you thought or hoped it would."

Sayles is now 45 with greying sideburns, tall (6ft 4in) with the self-reliant air that typifies one aspect of the spirit that built America, the sort of man who does not "work for wages". The impression is borne out by the way he makes

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■ AWARDS

The tallest sculpture in Britain, *Antony Gormley's Angel of the North*, wins a top prize — before it's even built



■ THEATRE

In Chichester, Harriet Walter gets little help from her supporting actors in a new staging of *Hedda Gabler*



■ PROM

Peter Maxwell Davies conducts the first London performance of his Nordic-flavoured Sixth Symphony



■ RADIO

Panic over John Birt's plans for the BBC World Service are reports of its death exaggerated?

Prizes for art projects to regenerate urban areas are awarded today. Daniel Rosenthal reports

Angel on the hard shoulder

Antony Gormley's 65ft high by 169ft wide *Angel of the North* stands head and wings above the five other arts ventures which today receive £5,000 prizes in the annual British Gas Properties Working for Cities Awards. The tallest sculpture in Britain, it is also the most controversial of the six victorious projects. And it has not even been built yet.

Working for Cities, run in association with the Arts Councils of England, Wales and Scotland, and now in its sixth year, exists to celebrate the art-driven regeneration of urban environments.

The regenerative powers of the Turner Prize-winning sculptor *Angel* cannot be assessed until July next year, by which time the giant steel figure should have risen up on a disused colliery beside the A1, on the southern outskirts of Gateshead, from where it will watch over some 90,000 motorists a day.

The seven judges, including Sir Bob Scott, chief executive of the Greenwich Millennium Trust, deemed the statue the "most exciting and original" urban project in development. But in some quarters Gormley and the Gateshead councillors who commissioned *Angel* would have won a prize acknowledging art's ability to divide, rather than unite, a community.

Liberal Democrat councillors on Gateshead's Labour-run authority launched a vociferous Stop the Statue campaign last year. *Angel* would be a hazardous distraction to drivers, some said. A performing arts centre could bring greater benefits.

Alerted to an apparent re-

semblance between *Angel* and an Albert Speer statue erected by the Luftwaffe outside Berlin in 1935, the *Gateshead Post* ran front-page photographs of Speer's and Gormley's designs, beneath the headline "Nazi... but nice".

National recognition for *Angel*, whose estimated £800,000 construction cost will be funded largely through a National Lottery grant, will probably revive the acrimony.

Not surprisingly, Sir Bob Scott says Gormley's work sparked a passionate debate among the judges: "One person hated it and was adamant it shouldn't win. But the majority wanted to applaud the bravery and imagination behind a project which will come to be admired and respected."

Sid Henderson, chairman of Gateshead council's arts committee, said: "Angel will strengthen Gateshead's unique visual identity at a time when our towns are taking on a more and more standardised appearance."

Those who feel the worth of artistic initiatives should be gauged by the number of people they involve will cheer the Community Arts award for Cardiff's the Pioneers.

Founded by Nick Clements in 1981, the group has enlisted more than 30,000 Cardiff residents, representing about 20 nationalities, to design, build and maintain mosaics and murals which brighten dozens of sites from a pedestrian underpass to a Sikh temple.

Much of their work is with teenagers facing bleak employment prospects. "We use art to give young people the spark of creativity that can increase self-esteem," Cle-

ment said. "I'm not suggesting every school-leaver becomes an artist, but a 16-year-old who has hands-on involvement in art will make a better mechanic or plumber."

Clements and co-director Sarah Osborne will use their prize to fund a link-up with Methodist ministers on Cardiff's troubled Ely housing estate, their joint aim "to convey the urgently needed message of good parenting to mothers and fathers so young that they are still children themselves".

The Spitalfields Festival, in East London, was judged Best

Festival. More than 2,000 schoolchildren and adults from Tower Hamlets take part each year in educational and community work centred around the eclectic three-week summer music programme at Christ Church Spitalfields.

Michael Berkeley, who with fellow composers Judith Weir and Anthony Payne became the event's joint artistic director last year, said: "We feel there's no point in Spitalfields being just another London music festival. It has to achieve something germane to its community." Part of that

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concert admission for people from a deprived area who, says Berkeley, would otherwise not be exposed to "the humanising influence of music".

London can also celebrate the Public Art award for *A Light in Docklands*, the £120,000 show which illuminates buildings along the Docklands Light Railway last Christmas.

The Arts Centre award goes to the £4.5 million Sunderland City Library and Arts Centre, which has attracted more than one and a half million visitors since opening in January 1995.

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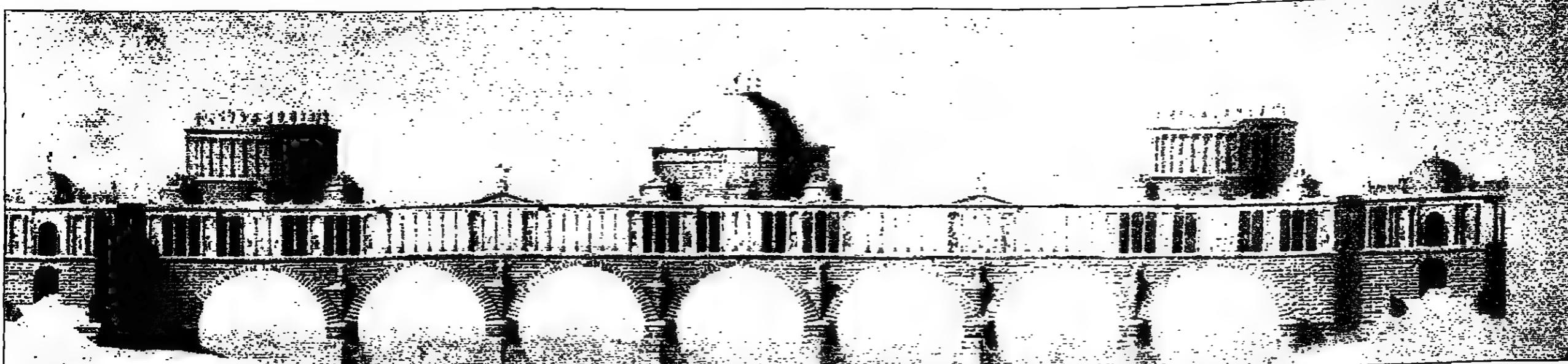
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Roger Scruton admires the ideas of an architect whose devotion to Classical ideals brought him both fame and opprobrium in his day



Soane's designs, inspired by his sense of the architect as one inspired by the highest ideals, acknowledged the importance both of a building's public reality and the sensibility of its users: his elevation for a "Triumphal Bridge", 1777

Sir John Soane (1753-1837) is known to all students of architecture, not only for his buildings, the greatest of which, the Bank of England, has been enlarged and mutilated beyond recognition — but also for the two houses in which he lived and which he filled with his priceless collection of ancient and modern art. Modernists like Pevsner sifted out Soane as a precursor of the 20th-century radicals, an architect prepared to defy the Classical style, in order to produce forms and spaces more suited to the modern age. But Soane himself would have despised the modern movement, believing that experiments are artistically worthless unless conducted within a living tradition.

Soane made his mark in many ways. The mausoleum which he built for his wife in St Pancras' churchyard was adapted by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to form the design of the original telephone booth — a design so manifestly superior to its wretched successors

Seeing the light and shade

that Westminster City Council has decided to restore it. Soane was influential, too, as a collector and connoisseur. David Watkin's book draws our attention to another and neglected aspect of his work. In 1806 Soane was appointed to the Professorship of Architecture at the Royal Academy, a post which carried the obligation to deliver lectures to students. These lectures were offered in 1804 and again in 1815 and eventually published, after many revisions.

They form a remarkable statement of the principles of Classical architecture, illustrated with striking examples and a wealth of criticism. Soane's recently discovered papers show the extraordinary lengths to which he went in order to understand the art of building, and

David Watkin has drawn on them to provide a striking portrait of the last Enlightenment thinker. Watkin takes us on a pilgrimage through Soane's course of study, showing the contribution made to the understanding of architecture by 18th-century philosophy and the steadily increasing refinement of architectural theory at the hands of the French and Italian literati who were Soane's favourite reading. The son of a bricklayer, with little formal education, Soane was determined to live up to his own ideal of the architect as a man of superior wisdom, inspired by the highest ideals. He taught himself French, Italian and Latin, and filled his library with every available treatise on his own and neighbouring arts. He approached his intellectual task

SIR JOHN SOANE
Enlightenment Thought
and the Royal Academy
Lectures
By David Watkin
Cambridge University Press, £75
ISBN 0 521 40912

The resulting quarrel was partly responsible for the bitter self-isolation which marred Soane's declining years. But no reader of the lectures can regret Soane's ardent desire not only to praise but also to blame where blame is due.

Soane's ruling idea is that architecture is a discipline, the principles of which had been discovered with great labour by the ancients and set forth in the system of Orders. As he rightly discerns, the Orders are not to be understood in terms of abstract geometry. They divide a building into meaningful parts, and bring those parts together in harmony. Their power derives from moulding and shadow, and the aspiring architect must learn his trade not by dreaming up abstract schemes, but by going out

into the world and drawing what he sees — in particular by drawing the light as it falls across the surface of a building.

Good taste should be the architect's ideal as opposed to the "whim and caprice" which threaten to replace it. Good taste involves a respect for the public reality of a building, and for the fellow citizens who must live with it. From those simple but powerful premises Soane extracts an account of architecture that is far removed indeed from the practice of architects today. Yet how I wish that Colin St John Wilson, architect of the new British Library, had been brought up on this wise and philosophical thinker, and had learnt from him to respect the law of Ephesus, according to which the architect of a

The glory of insubstantial pageantry

Michael Levey

THE MEDICI WEDDING OF 1589
By James M. Saslow
Yale, £30
ISBN 0 300 06447 0

None of us attended the Medici wedding celebrations in Florence in 1589, but the cumulative effect of James Saslow's book is to make readers of it feel they did. And that is achieved by no vaguely colourful evocation or at the expense of scholarship. On the contrary. The pages bristle with scholarly references and are studded with minute, precise details, often the product of the author's research, some of which are unlikely to concern a general audience and are sensibly reserved for the catalogue section and the notes.

The wedding celebrations of 1589 were in a tradition of public festivity in Florence associated particularly with the Medici family's rise to prominence. They could be traced back to the opulent style with which the wedding of Lorenzo "the Magnificent" had been celebrated in the 15th-century republican city. By 1589 the Medici were established as reigning Grand Dukes of Tuscany, and Florence had witnessed a succession of grandiose ceremonies celebrating Medici births, deaths and marriages. The festivities of 1589 were intended to be the most sumptuous of

all, with decorations in the streets and magnificent theatrical performances at court.

Inevitably, much of the spectacle has to be reconstructed from written sources, supplemented by engravings and drawings. Scholarship has frequently focused on this evidence, beginning a century ago with a brilliantly pioneering study by Warburg. Where Professor Saslow excels is in marshalling the material so that the reader enjoys a doubly privileged position: as speci-

Ferdinando (as he then was) had just been uncle to the Grand Ducal heir. More could also have been said about the bride, Christine of Lorraine. We are told of her influential maternal grandmother, Catherine des Médicis, Queen Mother of France, but not of her paternal one, after whom she was named, Christina of Denmark — the subject of Holbein's famous portrait in the National Gallery — who was still alive at the date of the wedding. The Grand Duchess Christine would assume a most untypical role for a woman in Florence, becoming regent for both her son and grandson, and would be the dedicatee of a significant essay by Galilei.

The crises and displays of temperament exhibited in the recent television programmes on the Royal Opera House seem tame and contrived by comparison with the real panic and rising anger which began to infect some of the responsible individuals in Florence in the spring of 1589. Yet all went wonderfully well in the end — apart from the anyway uncontrollable weather. And one must marvel at the thoroughness of the organisation, extending down to the provision of toilet buckets for the workmen.

The bride and bridegroom met for the first time during the festivities. There was a dynastic alliance exceptional not only in the lavish nature of its celebration but in its happy outcome. The bridegroom was the third Medici Grand Duke, Ferdinando I, whose earlier life had not seemed to include exercise of secular power. Professor Saslow might have brought out the point more clearly, for until 1582 Cardinal

Erudition is constantly fused in Professor Saslow's text with intelligent speculation about the ordinary, human aspect of things. He is not afraid to remind us that however exquisite a Florentine auditorium might look on the occasion, its atmosphere in reality would have been "dreary, warm and smelly". Characteristically, he has noted the modern custom of

bridal couples driving out to be photographed at the Medici villa at Poggio a Caiano, where Christine, like previous Medici brides, rested before her entry into Florence.

This is a book about the arts in which people — and not merely those who are histori-

cally important — bulk with almost equal prominence. As readably as it is learned, it is readily addressed to people, and it deserves to be popular.

Sir Michael Levey's *Florence: A Portrait* is published by Jonathan Cape

Comfortable coat of secrecy

Nigel West

SPIES WITHOUT CLOAKS
By Amy Knight
Princeton University Press, £16.95
ISBN 0 691 02570

duced contradictory accounts of what happened, and Amy Knight has undertaken an impressive analysis to strip away the mythology.

Her conclusions suggest that the version peddled in the West, and confirmed by various official investigations, is merely a self-serving fabrication intended to conceal the extent to which the Kremlin was implicated.

Apart from two key figures who seem to have committed suicide, the putsch collapsed with minimal consequences. None of these who supposedly detained Gorbachev at his presidential dacha at Foros was ever disciplined, and the conspirators who were arrested in the immediate aftermath have all been freed.

But what of the parts played by others? Not a shot was fired as Gorbachev's 32-strong presidential guard surrendered to five men from the KGB's crack Alpha squad. No calls for help were made from the car telephones available, and why was Yevgeni Primakov allowed to leave Foros and fly to Moscow at the height of the coup? A seasoned KGB professional, Primakov was close to

Gorbachev and acted as his foreign policy adviser. He was then appointed head of the KGB, and is now Boris Yeltsin's Foreign Minister.

Amy Knight's view is that the coup was no such thing, but rather an officially sponsored attempt to reimpose an authoritarian style of Communist rule, managed in a way that made the whole scheme deniable if the wheels came off.

Once it became clear the KGB would be unable to seize power, it adopted the role of Gorbachev's saviour, and Yeltsin has acquiesced in the deception.

So plus ça change. In January 1994 the FSK announced the arrest of a defence official on a charge of spying for Britain, and last year M15 identified a Russian television journalist, Aleksander Malakov, as an SVR agent and he was deported. For those employed by what has been called the second oldest profession, it is comforting to know that there is job security in at least one industry.

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In

Strong but stale

Cynthia Ozick is one of those sainted few who, through no promotion of their own, have come to be known as a writer's writer. Granted, this moniker smacks of what A. S. Byatt calls "turkey-cocking" — think of a man's man, a soldier's soldier — but the appellation is not always as chauvinistic as it sounds. A writer's writer can be someone on the leading edge of experimentation (Gertrude Stein, James Joyce, Alasdair Gray), or — more often — someone who is equipped intellectually and strategically to hold the fort against all comers. Cynthia Ozick is one of those — a fire ant of the mind, a worker bee who doubles as Valkyrie.

Portrait of the Artist as a Bad Character is Ozick's fourth collection of essays, and those familiar with her previous writing will discover no new corners here. Perhaps this is because, as a writer now in her sixties, Ozick published late. In the opening essay of this collection, Ozick tells of her frustration over remaining unpublished until her late twenties. As with everything she writes, she relates this tale of unfulfilled ambition with so much genuine humility that it sounds almost tender.

Ozick loves her work, that much is evident — but more than that, it seems she can't believe her own success. Once success finally found her, it came in a stroke like knighthood. But by that time all her prejudices about literature were fully formed. Hers is not an intelligence shaped by pub-

Marianne Wiggins

PORTRAIT OF THE ARTIST AS A BAD CHARACTER
And Other Essays on Writing
By Cynthia Ozick
Pimlico, £12.50
ISBN 071267845

lishing. She knew what she thought before she "arrived". The best writer's writers always do.

But as much as those original opinions constitute her strength, they also reveal her weakness. Ozick is not a trigger-happy essayist — she's not easily aroused. Once she assesses that some wrong needs righting, she takes up her pen on subjects ranging from the Old Testament's Book of Ruth to the nuances between a Bronx and a Brooklyn accent. But her old themes, those formative clichés, orchestrate everything she writes, and there comes a point, regrettably, when every theme and variation has been played, and we have heard it all before.

This is not to say that Ozick doesn't go at all her subjects with anything less energetic than a *scherzo tempo* — but her oldies are more mouldy now than golden. Her heroes — Henry James, Emerson, Isaac Babel — have featured in her essays for 20 years, and although their contributions to the canon of literature are historically established, Ozick rolls them out for every new parade. *Enough*, already, the reader wants to plead, with the Henry James. Bring on anyone but Henry, Jessie James, Or Clive, Or Etta.

Of the 22 essays herein assembled, some simply never leave the ground. Like Howard Hughes's massive aeronautic folly, the Spruce Goose, Ozick's less successful essays are wonderful constructions made of material that is, fatally, essentially wooden.

It may be unpardonable to blame a writer (even a writer's writer) for choosing her material less than perfectly, but Ozick is one writer from whom we, as hungerers after lucid, generous, soul-sustaining thought, demand — and usually receive — the best.

Five of the essays here — among them *Literature and the Politics of Sex, Ruth and Innovation and Redemption: What Literature Means* — are incomparable exercises in the magic and healing properties of great literature. If you have ever dreamt of writing — or, for that matter, of any form of consummate self-expression you will want to keep these near you to safeguard your optimism through the dark nights.

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Echoing sea of blissful sound



The composer's second wife, Cosima, and their daughter Eva

Ah! Another book about Wagner! How delightful! How eagerly I rush to its pages! How I dance for joy when I put the (approximately) seventeen-thousandth book about him on to my shelves!

And you tell me, do you, that this one is not confined to the major works — it includes *Die Feen*, *Das Liebesverbot* and *Rienzi*, which nobody produces, not even at Bayreuth. Marvellous, marvellous! And there are all of 225 pages in this one, you say? Well, well, James, kindly pass the cyanide, and pass it quickly.

Now then. It is well known that I, Bernard Levin, passionately love the music of Richard Wagner. But so do millions upon millions more. Silly people play a silly game of "If you had to choose Mozart or Wagner, which would you choose?", and I would of course choose Mozart. (And though Beethoven wrote only one opera, that one still must take the blue ribbon even when *Die Meistersinger* is in one scale and *Fidelio* in the other.)

Happily, we can have the lot so what is all the fuss about? It is this: Wagner's music profoundly different from any other's; Wagner was truly *sui generis*. Take one only minor item in what could be a hundred. Wagner's music never stops; the music flows without any break. That in itself can hardly be called alarming, but the sounds Wagner makes are not to be heard from any other musician. The people who shudder at Wagner are feeling things that only Wagner

Bernard Levin on the genius of a composer whose unique music defies criticism and sings for itself

could, and did, produce. And those who flee from Wagner are those who fear to see themselves too deep.

Very well. But there have been

hundreds of books — I believe it is

thousands — about Wagner. So

why should yet another have been

written now, this time by Michael

Tanner, to add to the flood?

Mind, Mr Tanner is no shallow

scribbler, just wearily

repeating what has

been scribbled again

and again. He has

done his homework

thoroughly and deeply

— when he quotes

in German he is not

showing off, and he

always digs deep to get Falstaff's

gold. But what has he truly added to

the understanding, the meaning,

the glory, the stupendous genius of

Richard Wagner — that we did not

already know? On the fourth page of

Mr Tanner's book, we encounter

Er...

And this? "What, it seems to me,

can more plausibly be alleged

against Siegfried is not his negative

characteristics, but his comparative

lack of positive ones..." But there is

scarcely any indication that he has much

in the way of a sex-drive..." Er...

I hesitate to say that Mr Tanner

has wasted his time entirely, for

presumably he thinks that the effort

he has shown was worth the

struggle. Two and a half cheers,

then, for him. But, alas, many

Wagnerites will pick up Mr Tanner's book, but rather more will put it down. That is nothing to do with

"Wagner has said it all."

Listen. Listen! If you want to be

transfixed by Wagner's genius (and I

certainly do), stop thinking and

just listen. He will tell you with his

music everything you want to know

about every note he wrote, and all

we need is a text or a score — and

now we have titles with

metaphysics, and the other uncon-

cerned with it, but

that Wagner moves

from his patently doctrinal work to

his most covertly instructive one."

And this? "What, it seems to me,

can more plausibly be alleged

against Siegfried is not his negative

characteristics, but his comparative

lack of positive ones..." Er...

I hesitate to say that Mr Tanner

has wasted his time entirely, for

presumably he thinks that the effort

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against Sie

Study the list of players and their values and pick an ITF team to beat the best

GOALKEEPERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
10101	Michael Watt	Aberdeen	1.50
10201	David Seaman	Arsenal	5.00
10202	Vince Bartram	Arsenal	0.75
10203	John Lukic	Arsenal	0.75
10301	Mark Bosnich	Aston Villa	3.50
10302	Michael Oakes	Aston Villa	1.00
10401	Tim Flowers	Blackburn Rovers	3.00
10402	Shay Given	Blackburn Rovers	2.00
10501	Gordon Marshall	Celtic	3.50
10601	Dmitri Kharine	Chester	2.50
10602	Kevin Hitchcock	Chester	2.00
10701	Steve Ogrizovic	Coventry City	1.50
10702	John Filan	Coventry City	0.50
10801	Martin Taylor	Derby County	1.00
10802	Russell Hout	Derby County	1.00
10803	Steve Sutton	Derby County	0.50
10901	Alf Maxwell	Dundee United	0.50
11001	Ian Westwater	Dunfermline	0.50
11101	Neville Southall	Everton	2.50
11102	Jason Keerton	Everton	0.50
11103	Paul Gerrard	Everton	2.50
11201	Gilles Rousset	Hearts	2.00
11301	Jim Leighton	Hibernian	1.50
11401	Dragoje Lekovic	Kilmarnock	1.00
11501	Mark Beeney	Leeds United	1.50
11502	Paul Evans	Leeds United	0.25
11503	Nigel Martyn	Leeds United	2.50
11601	Kevin Poole	Leicester City	1.00
11602	Zeljko Kalac	Leicester City	0.50
11701	David James	Liverpool	5.00
11702	Tony Warner	Liverpool	0.50
11801	Peter Schmeichel	Manchester United	5.00
11802	Raimond van de Gouw	Manchester United	1.00
11901	Gary Walsh	Middlesbrough	1.50
11902	Alan Miller	Middlesbrough	1.50
12001	Scott Howie	Motherwell	1.50
12101	Shake Hislop	Newcastle United	4.00
12102	Pavel Smicek	Newcastle United	3.00
12201	Mark Crossley	Nottingham Forest	2.50
12202	Alan Fetus	Nottingham Forest	0.75
12203	Tommy Wright	Nottingham Forest	0.75
12301	Scott Y Thomson	Raith Rovers	0.50
12401	Andy Goram	Rangers	5.00
12501	Kevin Pressman	Sheffield Wed	2.00
12601	Dave Beasant	Southampton	1.00
12602	Nell Moss	Southampton	0.25
12803	Tony Cotter	Sunderland	1.00
12801	Ian Walker	Tottenham Hotspur	3.50
12901	Ludek Miskosko	West Ham United	2.00
12902	Steve Maitone	West Ham United	0.50
13001	Neil Sullivan	Wimbledon	1.00
13002	Paul Heald	Wimbledon	1.00



Kanchelskis, left, had a disappointing European championship, but ITF selectors will be aware of his qualities

CENTRAL DEFENDERS

Code	Name	Team	Price (£m)
30101	Brian Irvine	Aberdeen	2.00
30102	Colin Woodthorpe	Aberdeen	1.50
30201	Tony Adams	Arsenal	4.00
30202	Steve Bould	Arsenal	3.00
30203	Martin Keown	Arsenal	3.00
30204	Andy Linighan	Arsenal	1.00
30205	Scott Marshall	Arsenal	1.00
30206	Gareth Southgate	Aston Villa	3.50
30207	Ugo Ehiogu	Aston Villa	3.00
30303	Paul McGrath	Aston Villa	2.50
30304	Carl Tiler	Aston Villa	1.00
30305	Ricardo Scimeca	Aston Villa	4.00
30401	Colin Hendry	Blackburn Rovers	4.00
30402	Ian Pearce	Blackburn Rovers	2.50
30403	Chris Coleman	Blackburn Rovers	0.50
30404	Nicky Marker	Celtic	3.00
30501	Tommy Boyd	Celtic	1.50
30502	Malick Mackay	Celtic	2.50
30601	Michael Duberry	Chelsea	2.50
30602	Frank Leboeuf	Chelsea	2.00
30603	Frank Sinclair	Chelsea	2.00
30604	David Lee	Chelsea	1.50
30605	Andy Myers	Chelsea	0.50
30606	Erlend Johnsen	Coventry City	3.00
30607	Jakob Kjeldberg	Coventry City	1.00
30701	Richie Shaw	Coventry City	1.50
30702	David Bush	Coventry City	1.00
30703	Igor Stimac	Derby County	2.50
30801	Steve Wessell	Derby County	1.00
30802	David Unsworth	Derby County	1.00
30803	Jacobo Laurenas	Derby County	0.50
30804	Matthew Carbon	Derby County	1.00
30901	Steven Pressley	Dundee United	0.75
30902	Brian Welsh	Dundee United	0.75
31001	Mark Miller	Dunfermline	0.75
31002	John Slemmon	Dunfermline	0.75
31003	David Unsworth	Dunfermline	0.75
31004	Steve Watson	Dunfermline	0.75
31005	John Robertson	Dunfermline	0.75
31006	Paul Ritchie	Dunfermline	0.75
31007	Joe McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50
31008	Mark Reilly	Hibernian	0.50
31009	Ray Montemarie	Hibernian	0.50
31010	David Wetherall	Hibernian	0.50
31011	Lucas Radebe	Hibernian	0.50
31012	David Watson	Hibernian	0.50
31013	Craig Short	Hibernian	0.50
31014	David McPherson	Hibernian	0.50
31015	Phil Parkin	Hibernian	0.50
31016	Paul Ritchie	Hibernian	0.50
31017	Joe McLaughlin	Hibernian	0.50
31018	John Robertson	Hibernian	0.50
31019	Paul Stretford	Hibernian	0.50
31020	Paul McAllister	Hibernian	0.50
31021	John Robertson	Hibernian	0.50
31022	Paul Stretford	Hibernian	0.50
31023	John Robertson	Hibernian	0.50
31024	Paul Stretford	Hibernian	0.50
31025	John Robertson	Hibernian	0.50
31026	John Robertson	Hibernian	0.50
31027	John Robertson	Hibernian	0.50
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31092	John Robertson	Hibernian	0.50
31093	John Robertson	Hibernian	0.50
31094	John Robertson	Hibernian	0.50

FOOTBALL

Underdogs carrying Welsh hopes in Europe

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

IT WAS not Pele's finest hour. From Santos and Brazil and the World Cup to a fictional field somewhere in Europe and Sylvester Stallone in goal. *Escape to Victory*. A football fairy tale that went wrong somewhere with a bright idea and the cutting room.

It was a non-starter, too fanciful to ring true, and in a sensible world, it would never have been repeated. Nobody would fail for something like that again. Only this is not a sensible world and they—that is, everybody—has.

The storyline is simple. A small village team, from a very small village, rises from its middle-of-nowhere league in a ridiculously short period of time to win the national cup final. Then, even better, it takes on the might of Europe. Oh yes, the village and its team have a very silly name that hardly anybody can say. Welcome to the story of Llansantffraid-y-Mechain.

Tonight, Llansantffraid, population 954, Welsh Cup-holders, take on Ruch Chorzow, 14 times the Polish league champions and present Polish Cup-holders. In a perfect world, they would be doing so at Llansantffraid's home Recreation Ground, little more than a school playing field, but, sadly, in the sole concession to reality and safety regulations, they will meet in the first leg of their Cup Winners' Cup preliminary-round tie at the Racecourse Ground, Wrexham, a few miles away. Obviously, the Welsh think they can win.

"So much has happened to us in such a short time that nobody would bet against us getting a result against the Poles. We know next to nothing about them and it is a fair assumption they know just as little about us. We are going to have a look at them tonight on a video which has been sent to us by a friend in Europe, but I don't suppose they will have

seen us," So says Graham Breeze, team manager and local newspaper editor. "They hope for a crowd, too. You can usually count our supporters on match days just by looking around the field. We don't often get more than a couple of hundred, but they are all very keen and they will all be at the Racecourse Ground, along with, hopefully, a lot of new fans who will cheer us on as the representatives of Wales. We are going to relish our few hours of fame. Welsh language television has made a documentary about us, we've had lots of inquiries about sponsorship and commercial backing and we will be wearing a local firm's logo on our shirts," Breeze again.

All of which is a long way from the Montgomeryshire Amateur League, where Llansantffraid were languishing six years ago. Since then, under Breeze's guidance, the club has risen steadily, culminating in a thrilling Welsh Cup success last spring, when Barry Town, already crowned champions of Wales, were beaten in a penalty shoot-out at Cardiff Arms Park. Chorzow, five internationals et al, are next on the agenda.

Tommy Morgan, 39, carries the bulk of Llansantffraid's hopes. He scored 27 goals last season and was offered a move to a club in South Korea until he told them his age. The captain, Gary Evans, will pull the strings in midfield and while his brother, Ian, is injured, there are the Whelan twins, John and Chris, in the squad. And four Joneses. If only one player comes from the village itself, no matter.

"It is a good team with a great spirit and everybody in the village treats them as their own," Breeze said. "What's happened is a bit of a fairy tale and we are enjoying it, but it will be strictly serious business when the game starts."



Romario, the Brazil striker, signs autographs after being introduced to fans of his new club, Valencia, of Spain

RUGBY LEAGUE: WORLD CUP INCENTIVE FOR SCOTS AND IRISH

Lindsay backs five nations' format

Christopher Irvine reports on attempts to spread rugby league north of the border

possibly, create a Super League club north of the border at some point.

In the shorter term, Maurice Lindsay, the RFL chief executive, was sufficiently impressed with Scotland's 26-6 victory and the Firthill ground for him to propose entering both Scotland and Ireland in the World Cup in 14 months' time and giving them home advantage, in which case a five nations' tournament would be a natural development next summer.

"If we have a five nations, obviously it would be compared with the rugby union version and be written up as a poor relation, because we'll have smaller crowds," Lindsay said. "I don't care, I think

we have to start. Nobody in the previous 100 years began one, so all I would be doing is starting one for the next 100 years."

Rugby league's previous appearance in Glasgow, in 1909, coincided with another crisis over money in rugby union. That year, Scotland cancelled the Calcutta Cup because England had approved a three shilling allowance to the first All Blacks. Reports about the match were generally favourable, but one concluded that Scotland's conversion to the northern union game was as remote as Jewish conversion to Christianity.

The Glasgow Black Eagles were grounded in 1953 by the governing body before the

team even took off. Three amateur sides — Forth and Clyde, Stirling University and RAF Kinloss — is a minute base for Graeme Thompson to work on. But, from his position on the left wing, the newly installed Scottish development officer was filled with encouragement.

"The best selling point is seeing a match and word spreading by mouth," Thompson said. "There were four or five Scottish flags being waved. Next time it'll be 20 — and so on. And that's before we've started our initiative in schools."

The term five nations' more accurately describes the cosmopolitan make-up of the two pro-am teams on Tuesday. If Scotland are to improve, they will require a few more English, Australian and New Zealand players with Scottish antecedence.

Wasps optimistic of signing Tuigamala

THE prospect of another leading Wigan rugby league player gracing rugby union's Courage Clubs championship strengthened yesterday when officials at Wasps rated as better-than-ever the chances of Va'aiga Tuigamala joining them (David Hands writes). Tuigamala has been linked with Bath, as have his Wigan colleagues Henry Paul and Andy Farrell, but as a former New Zealand international, the black strip of Wasps would be a more fitting reminder of his union origins.

"Like all leading clubs we have spoken to many available players and Tuigamala has been among them," Malcolm Sinclair, the Wasps team manager, said. "but nothing is signed or sealed yet." Tuigamala, a wing for the All Blacks but centre with Wigan, may, like Martin Offiah, seek to play both codes.

□ Warrington have dropped Testy Harris, who is on the transfer list for a world-record £1.35m, for their last three Stones Super League games of the season. Harris, 20, has been linked with Saracens, Llanelli, and Cardiff.

Coaching role for Bates

TENNIS: Jeremy Bates, 35, who announced his retirement at this year's Wimbledon, is to take up a coaching position with the Lawn Tennis Association next week. The former British No 1 will become a member of David Felgate's national training and coaching team. "Having spent 15 years on the circuit and several under the spotlight as the leading British hope at Wimbledon, I believe I can help our best players deal with the preparations for and pressures of international tennis," Bates said.

□ Greg Rusedski, of Britain, won the first set against Jim Courier, the world No 9, in the second round of the ATP Tour Championship in Mason, Ohio, but his serving then became erratic and Courier recovered to win 6-7, 6-3, 6-4.

Divers stage boycott

DIVING: Britain's leading divers have refused to compete at the European junior championships, which start in Copenhagen today, because of a dispute between rival governing bodies (Craig Lord writes). The GB Diving Federation, which has for three years operated in opposition to the Amateur Swimming Federation of Great Britain (ASGB), the traditional governing body, had selected 13 divers. However, the ASGB said that only nine could go because some were affiliated only to the diving federation.

Welcome success

EQUESTRIANISM: Harry Marshall, the Northern Ireland veteran, riding Velveteen, won the Kerrygold Welcome Stakes, the opening event at the Dublin International Horse Show, yesterday. He cut every possible corner in a jump-off to record the fastest clear round, ahead of Elmer Gundel, of Germany, on Argot. Michel Robert, of France, on Alligator Fontaine, beat Nick Skelton, riding the appropriately-named Quick Star, into second place in the Kerrygold Speed Stakes.

May calls it a day

CRICKET: Tim May, the former Australia Test off spinner, has retired from the game, aged 34, May, whose last Test appearance was against England in Sydney 18 months ago, is understood to be planning to spend more time on his business interests. He took 75 wickets in 24 Tests, with personal bests of five for nine and 42 not out.

□ Gerry Gomez, who played in 29 Test matches for West Indies, captaining the side against England in Trinidad in 1948, has died at the age of 76.

FOR THE RECORD

FOOTBALL

1. Cincinatti 3 San Francisco 2; Los Angeles 2; Portland 1; Seattle 1; St Louis 0; Montreal 7. 2. Houston 1; Chicago 1; New York 1; Philadelphia 1; Atlanta 1; Dallas 1; St Louis 0; Montreal 7. 3. Atlanta 4; St Louis 2; New York 1; Chicago 1; Kansas City 1; Detroit 1; Baltimore 13; Minneapolis 2; Minnesota 4; California 1; Cleveland 4; Seattle 3.

4. ROMARIO, the Brazil striker, signs autographs after being introduced to fans of his new club, Valencia, of Spain.

5. BOWLS

ROYAL LEAMINGTON SPA: Women's world outdoor championships: Pairs: Eighth round: Great Britain 10-10, Australia 10-10, New Zealand 10-10, India 10-10, Scotland 10-10, South Africa 10-10, Norway 10-10, France 10-10, Sweden 10-10, Denmark 10-10, Ireland 10-10, Netherlands 10-10, Spain 10-10, Italy 10-10, Portugal 10-10, Malta 10-10, Austria 10-10, Japan 10-10, New Zealand 10-10, India 10-10, Scotland 10-10, Malaysia 10-10, South Africa 10-10, Norway 10-10, France 10-10, Sweden 10-10, Denmark 10-10, Ireland 10-10, Netherlands 10-10, Spain 10-10, Italy 10-10, Portugal 10-10, Malta 10-10, Austria 10-10, Japan 10-10, New Zealand 10-10, India 10-10, Scotland 10-10, Malaysia 10-10, South Africa 10-10, Norway 10-10, France 10-10, Sweden 10-10, Denmark 10-10, Ireland 10-10, Netherlands 10-10, Spain 10-10, Italy 10-10, Portugal 10-10, Malta 10-10, Austria 10-10, Japan 10-10, New Zealand 10-10, India 10-10, Scotland 10-10, Malaysia 10-10, South Africa 10-10, Norway 10-10, France 10-10, Sweden 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SAILING: CHALLENGE OF COWES WEEK TESTS MORE THAN JUST COMPETITORS

Officers under the gun when fleet's in

Edward Gorman
takes a look behind
the scenes at world's
premier regatta

FROM the vantage point of the Platform on the medieval granite battlements of Cowes Castle, home of the Royal Yacht Squadron since 1857, hundreds of yachts could be seen carving their way through a sparkling Solent in a fresh westerly breeze yesterday, on a perfect day for racing.

Along the north shore, the 80ft masts were running down past *Stone Point* under colourful spinnakers. Behind came the Class 1 boats, vying with the masts for honours in the Britannia Cup. Mixed in with the chasing pack was the 22ft International Etchells fleet, dwarfed by the bigger yachts around it.

Closer, but still half a mile from the guns below the Platform, the Sigma 33 class was approaching the Black Group start line, inshore of West Bramble buoy. In the foreground, the International Dragon fleet was milling about, waiting for its five-minute gun.

Sir Graham Wilkinson, timekeeper for the day and one of 25 race officers working under the awning on the battlements, declared: "One minute to the Class 3 Channel Handicap ten-minute gun: International Dragon, five-minute gun and Sigma 33 start." Rupert Cottrell, the gunner, pressed the button to fire the starting cannon, which boomed out across the Solent in a puff of white smoke.

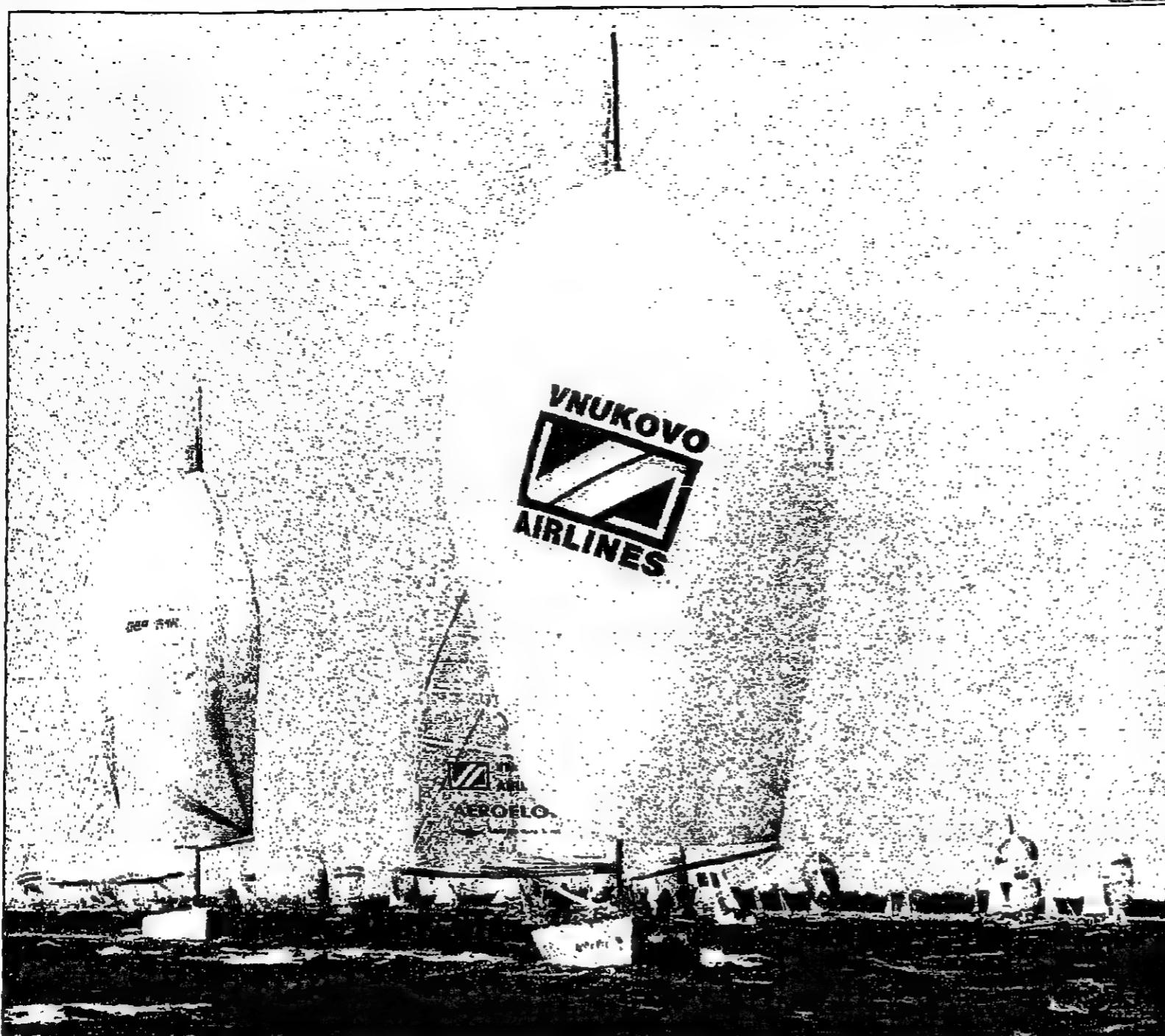
The Sigmas were off — but some were over the line early, signalled by a second gun from Cottrell. They were spotted, however, by the line officers, led by Peter Rountree, under the overall supervision of Anthony Matusch, the principal race officer. Behind the battlements, in the Squadron ballroom, video footage of the line was also being checked.

Getting 849 yachts away at the biggest regatta in the world is no mean feat and it has taken the Royal Yacht Squadron and the officers of the Cowes Combined Clubs (CCC) some years to perfect it. Every morning this week, from 10.20 onwards, 26 races at Skandia Life Cowes Week begin in sequence, with starts every five minutes for 24 hours.

The race officers have to set courses that offer every fleet challenging racing and that are suited to the wind and tidal conditions of the day. Then each class has to get away with every starter identified in advance.

Class flags are raised and lowered, boards showing courses put up and down, starting guns fired and information conveyed to competing yachts over the radio. At the finish, the first three boats in each class, which often approach the line in a confusing mêlée, get a gun each and all finishers have to be timed and logged.

With so many yachts on the water, the CCC operates separate start lines, with half the fleet starting in the northern



Grand Mistral, the first Russian boat to enter the Cowes competition, sails up the Solent with its spinnaker out, ahead of Longobarda

or Black Group sector from the Squadron to West Bramble, and half in the southern or White Group sector. Though the arrangement makes the starting process more efficient, it also requires officers, watching through binoculars, to be eagle-eyed when yachts can be up to 1½ miles away.

Captain Dan Brady, the secretary of the CCC, was among those supervising the operation yesterday. "It's basically 150 years' experience which has built up over time," he said as the gun sounded to start the Redwing fleet.

"We have, however, become much more professional in the last few years. It is still down to the individual to see what is going on and then take a decision, but we do use all sorts of equipment to help them decide and get the right answer."

Brigadier John Simpson, chief radio officer, who had just got away the last and biggest class, the X-One Design fleet, put it down to the quiet efficiency of yachtsmen working for yachting. "The racing is run for the people on the water. The great thing is they are all amateurs but they do it thoroughly professionally," he said, as they took the briefest rest — before the first Britannia Cup winners had

Lennon profits from calm conditions

By EDWARD GORMAN
SAILING CORRESPONDENT

RACING in the Glenfiddich Meiges 24 fleet is starting to hot up at Skandia Life Cowes Week, with three or four boats capable of taking the title. The favourite is still Mike Lennon, the national champion on *Raw Hyde*, after his third win in the series yesterday.

After the storm of Tuesday that caused the dismantling of three boats and damage to five others that ran aground,

the fleet enjoyed perfect conditions yesterday with Lennon finishing ahead of Russell Peters, the Ultra 30 skipper, on *Anzester*, in second, and Steve Goacher, the Flying Fifteen national champion, on *Snicker's Workwear*, in third.

However, the overall leader remains David Bedford, the three-times J24 national champion on *Glenfiddich 1*. After two third and two fourth places, and revelling in sailing in the storm on Tuesday,

Bedford has been consistent, but knows he needs to take risks to beat Lennon.

"Mike is very fast downwind," he said. "We are going to have to get a bit more adventurous and throw a couple of touchdowns. We are hoping for a real foam-up on Friday when a big weather system is expected. No one else can afford to get smashed up because their discs are gone."

In the Britannia Cup, in which the masts and Class 1

yachts raced together, the honours went to Jocelyn Waller's BH-41 *Silk 2* ahead of Chris Little's new *Farr 45*, *Bounder*.

Pete Jones, of Farr International, who was crewing aboard *Bounder*, said that the boat was always going to find it hard against the BH-41s. "It was a very good race," he said. "The only thing we lacked was help from the Channel Handicap system. We had to give the BH-41s six minutes an hour, which is punitive."

Juniors in need of PinSENT's inspiration

By MIKE ROSEWELL
ROWING CORRESPONDENT

MATTHEW PINSENT is due at the world championships at Strathclyde today. The double Olympic champion arrived in London from Atlanta on Tuesday morning and immediately rang Scotland to say: "I must see the British junior team. They are the Olympians of tomorrow."

It was junior day yesterday and, with only two of Britain's 11 crews avoiding the repechages, Pinfest's inspiration could be welcome. British youngsters were clearly finding life tough with the series of low places before the women's coxed four lightened the gloom with a first place, and direct qualification for Saturday's final.

They were without the support of Mark Banks, the chief junior coach, in the last 300 metres when they overtook the United States. Banks having been catapulted from his bicycle in a collision with a German coach. Banks would have noted that the British winning time was slower than four crews in the other heat.

If the junior women's four were in an easy heat, the junior men's coxless combination, the British lead boat, found themselves in an apparent final rehearsal. They finished third, and qualified for the semi-final, behind the highly-rated Italy and Germany, but ahead of the equally rated Australia and Denmark. The other heats were much slower, and Martin Orvis, their coach, was clearly relieved. "Thankfully, we did what we had to do," he said.

There were high hopes before the championships for Britain's two junior quad sculls, both with plenty of pedigree athletes on board, but both will face repechages.

The junior men's boat allowed Denmark and Norway too much leeway in the first 1,000 metres in the prevailing tail wind and never threatened the final first place.

The British junior men's eight missed a direct passage to their final by .02 of a second. Again they gave two opponents, Russia and the United States, an advantage to half-way. They picked off the United States in the third 500 metres, but narrowly failed to catch Russia. All three of the British lightweight crews progressed to their semi-finals.

Pakistan keep success in the family

By IVO TENNANT

ONDILE SCHOOL (South Africa won toss). Pakistan beat South Africa by three wickets

BY THE turn of the century, familiar names will be to the fore in Pakistan. Bazid Khan, Imran Qadir and Faisal Iqbal, the immediate family of three of the country's greatest players, should all be Test cricketers. They are beneficiaries of a restructuring of the game at school level.

This, at least, is the opinion of Agha Zahid, who is coaching Pakistan in the Lombard under-15 World Cup. The emphasis on schools cricket has been heightened since Majid Khan, Bazid's father, became chief executive of the Board of Control. "In under-developed countries, in which boys have fewer means, they mature more quickly," Zahid said. "It is important that they build their strength and learn manners at this crucial age."

Majid and Abdul Qadir, who named his son after his former captain, Imran Khan, have yet to watch this Pakistani team, which did well to beat Australia on Tuesday. Captained by Faisal Iqbal, Javed Miandad's nephew, they are as gifted as any team from their tract of the sub-continent is expected to be.

Neither Bazid Khan nor Imran Qadir, who bovis leg breaks and googlies with an uncannily similar bound to the crease as his father, took a wicket yesterday. But Faisal made a splendid, unbeaten century against South Africa, side that is among the strongest in the two groups.

The extent to which the United Cricket Board looks to the future was evident in the presence yesterday of Bob Woolmer, the South Africa coach. "One of the reasons why I have come over is to assess where we stand," he said. "One of the main problems we face is the standards in the townships, although more cricketers are coming through and there was no window dressing in the selection of this party."

Woolmer believes that 15 is the right age to begin playing international cricket. "It is an incentive for 13 and 14-year-olds, whose interest must be retained so they do not take up basketball instead."

Other results: India 85, N. Ireland 84, Australia 85 (N. Ireland 84, Australia 85 not out); Canada 83, Zimbabwe 81-7.

CRICKET

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LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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PUBLIC NOTICES

TRANSPORT ACT 1968

The British Waterways Board (Sheffield and Tinsley Canal) (Reclassification) Order 1996

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Secretary of State for the Environment intends to make the above-named Order under section 104(3) of the Transport Act 1968.

The Order would add to the list of cruising waterways, in Part II of Schedule 12 to the 1968 Act, the Sheffield and Tinsley Canal which at present is comprised in the undertaking of the British Waterways Board as a reminder waterway.

Copies of the Order may be inspected at the offices of the British Waterways Board at Sheffield Basin, South Quay, Sheffield; at Mill Lane, Mill Gate, Newark, Notts; at Doynton Wharf, Greyfriars Road, Doncaster; and at Dock Street, Leeds. Copies of the Order may be obtained from the Department of the Environment, Environment Agency Sponsorship and Navigation Division, Room A236A, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3PY and received by him no later than 2 September 1996.

Objection to the Order may be made by notice in writing stating the grounds of objection, to the Secretary of State for the Environment, Department of the Environment, Environment Agency Sponsorship and Navigation Division, Room A236A, Romney House, 43 Marsham Street, London SW1P 3PY and received by him no later than 2 September 1996.

B. GLICKSMAN
An Assistant Secretary in the Department of the Environment
24 July 1996
Ref No. E1373/01/EASN

CHARITY COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PROPOSAL
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the couple named below in the presence
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in accordance with the provisions of
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CRICKET

Whitaker's world threatened by untimely injuries

By SIMON WILDE

SUCH are their fitness worries that Leicestershire, leaders of the Britannic Assurance Championship, have sent a party of 15 players to Swansea for their match with Glamorgan, that starts today. James Whitaker, the captain, is among the walking wounded and he must be hoping that the county's title challenge is not about to collapse as it did at about the same stage of the season two years ago.

The similarities between the campaigns are striking as far as Leicestershire are concerned. The county began that season, as they did this, as unfancied contenders, but by mid-August stood as mathematically the best placed team. Then, they were nine points behind the leaders, Warwickshire, with a game in hand; now they are three points ahead of Yorkshire, who alone among the top six do not play in this round.

Two years ago Leicestershire's challenge blew up in their faces when they lost three successive matches and their discipline.

One of those defeats was to Glamorgan in Wales. Whitaker, recovering from a bout of influenza, averaged less than 25 during those crucial closing weeks. Now, in his first season of captaincy, he faces a similar personal dilemma, while seeking to regain fitness after a torn calf muscle.

His new-ball attack looks thin. Millns is carrying a side strain and Mullally is with the England party to Headingley. Against that, Glamorgan's key seam bowler, Watkin, who might have done a good job for England in the second

Test, has a swollen knee and is a doubtful starter. If Leicestershire do slip up, there is no shortage of counties poised to move up at their expense.

Apart from Surrey, whose match with Lancashire began yesterday, Essex, with three straight wins behind them since they were beaten by Leicestershire by an innings, take on Somerset at Taunton, their chances significantly enhanced by the absence from the Somerset attack of Caddick, also on England

(Last season's positions in brackets)

TABLE

	P	W	L	D	BR	Bl	Pts
Leics (7)	11	6	4	1	37	180	13068
Essex (8)	12	6	4	2	37	187	13069
Surrey (12)	12	6	4	2	37	187	13070
Essex (15)	11	5	5	2	34	165	13071
Derbyshire (14)	11	5	5	2	34	165	13072
Notts (14)	11	5	5	2	34	165	13073
Somerset (9)	10	4	3	3	22	133	13074
Worcesters (10)	11	3	3	2	21	131	13075
Warwicks (12)	10	4	3	2	19	128	13076
Glamorgan (16)	10	4	3	2	19	128	13077
Warwicks (1)	10	4	3	2	19	128	13078
Warwicks (2)	10	4	3	2	19	128	13079
Warwicks (3)	10	4	3	2	19	128	13080
Warwicks (4)	10	4	3	2	19	128	13081
Northants (11)	11	1	5	5	25	125	13082
Notts (11)	10	1	4	5	25	121	13083
Warwicks (17)	10	0	8	4	17	44	13084

(Last season's positions in brackets)

resume a championship career that began with a second-ball bough and an unbeaten double-century. Kent must make do without the injured Eamonn.

Derbyshire are away from home at Hove, where Sussex will be feeling cock-a-hoop at having undermined Yorkshire's title hopes in Eastbourne last week. Derbyshire can expect another steamer's pitch and without Caddick and Harris, who are still unfit, their attack will be hard-pressed to outperform Drakes, Lewry and Giddins.

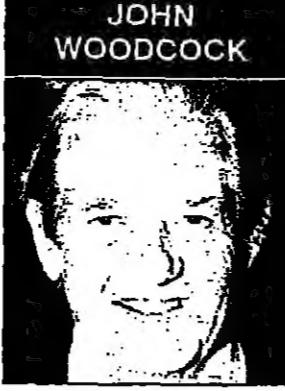
Sussex, in any case, are not quite out of the championship race themselves. They are in seventh place, although the 38-point gap between themselves and Leicestershire may take some closing. However, they have yet to play another of the teams above them, Essex. By defeating both Derbyshire and Essex, Sussex would do themselves two very large favours. They cannot count on their rivals cancelling themselves out because of the top six teams, only Essex and Yorkshire, who meet at Headington on August 29, remain to play each other.

Another echo of 1991 will occur at Edgbaston, where Durham take the field against Warwickshire without John Morris, who averages only 17 in the championship this season and has been dropped.

Morris scored 204 on the ground two years ago, the highest innings in Durham's brief first-class history, although it was overshadowed by a slightly larger one for the champions-to-be from Brian Lara.

Before the arrival of modern technology, it was consid-

JOHN WOODCOCK



By the time Pakistan had disposed of England at Lord's last week, Peter Willey must have felt that batting even against the most menacing attack West Indies ever fielded, which he did to some effect in the 1980s, was less harrowing than umpiring a modern Test match. With his every decision being replayed and scrutinised on a distended screen, as happened at Lord's, the lot of the Test umpire is fast becoming intolerable, and I use the word advisedly.

The overall standard of umpiring is much the same today as it has been for the last 50 years. It is just being made to look worse. Outside this country the job is done, as it invariably has been, by men with no playing ability to speak of, which is almost inevitably a disadvantage. It is no coincidence that the overseas umpire most highly regarded at the moment is Srinivas Venkataraghavan, who played Test cricket for India and is, therefore, an exception to the rule.

But the dreaded slow-motion replay spares no one. Our own old pros — the Willeys and Birds and Shephards — are as much at its mercy, if not quite as often refuted by it, as Venkataraghavan or Steve Bucknor (West Indies), Darrell Hair (Australia) and Kandiah Francis (Sri Lanka), who have all had a difficult time standing in the Test matches here this summer. Before the arrival of modern technology, it was consid-

ered out of order for a reporter to criticise an umpire's decision, other perhaps than inferentially. "Bioggs was judged leg-before," gave a veiled message, but except in the case of an obviously howling error, it was as far as most of us ever went. Now, when millions have seen a palpably wrong decision shown over and over again on television, the truth has to be told. It is as though the umpire has been taken off the list of protected birds. He is seen now as fair game, and that is a most seductive development.

The legendary Frank Cheshire would have had to give no more than three or four decisions all season, if that, involving catches at short leg or silly-point, when the issue was whether or not the ball had come off bat as well as pad. In today's game they are the bane of an umpire's life. At Lord's, there must have been a dozen of them on the last afternoon alone. The development, 40-odd years ago, of the forward prop, the bat half hidden behind the pad; the introduction of helmets, bringing the close fielders

closer still; more, and more frenzied, appealing; and the fact that batsmen are no longer expected to walk when they know they are out have all contributed to this. Umpiring was never more difficult, but the visual proof of so many unquestionably dodgy decisions being made does suggest that the age-old maxim, whereby the batsman from Sir Donald Bradman downwards who would have gone into bat against Waqar and Mushtaq last Monday week and not had problems, or of any umpire, for that matter, who could possibly have got every answer right.

boomerangs off a full length. Mushtaq with unremitting accuracy and fizzing, bounding wrist spin. I was surprised to see no allusion to Richie Benaud's match-winning, indeed Ashes-winning, spell at Old Trafford in 1961, when, like Mushtaq, now, he switched to bowling round the wicket *more in hope than expectation*.

Used as a defensive play, the leg break bowled into the rough from round the wicket is an out-and-out curse, exploited in the way that it was by Mushtaq and Benaud. It is good, resourceful cricket. I can think of no batsman from Sir Donald Bradman downwards who would have gone into bat against Waqar and Mushtaq last Monday week and not had problems, or of any umpire, for that matter, who could possibly have got every answer right.

Bicknell preserves hope for Surrey

By PAT GIBSON

SOUTHPORT (first day of four) Lancashire won loss: Lancashire, with five wickets in hand, are 83 runs behind Surrey

SURREY may not have appreciated it when they were invited to bat first, but they are better off taking their chances on a relaid pitch at the Southport and Birkdale club in Trafalgar Road than they would have been trying to manufacture a victory on a bland pitch at Old Trafford or The Oval.

They need positive results if they are going to maintain their challenge for their first championship since 1971 and, one way or the other, they are going to get one in this game, as long as the blustery north-west wind continues to drive the clouds away, it did yesterday.

Play began an hour late because of damp patches on the square, but there was still time for 15 wickets to fall — prompting a routine call to the Test and County Cricket Board — on a patchy green pitch with enough undulations to provide variable pace and bounce to go with the movement of the seam.

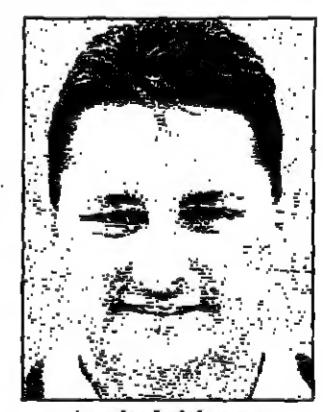
Such conditions are completely alien to batsmen brought up at The Oval and Surrey, without Stewart, Thorpe and Lewis, were probably feeling fairly pleased with themselves when they managed to make 211. They were undoubtedly feeling even better when the revitalised Martin Bicknell reduced Lancashire, themselves missing Atherton and Crawley, to 128 away, it did yesterday.

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Austin, his brisk seam bowling ideally suited to this kind of pitch, took the next three wickets; Radcliffe leg-before, Brown bowled second ball off his glove and Hollis caught behind. When Martin had Shahid leg-before, Surrey were 107 for six.

However, Julian then struck



41 of 43 balls, including a six and seven fours, to galvanise his team. With Martin Bicknell and Pearson adding useful runs at the end, Surrey had something to work with.

Martin Bicknell needed no second bidding. His restoration to full fitness has played a big part in the Surrey revival and now he took four for 33 in 12 overs with the best bowling of the day. Gallian was beautifully taken by Brown at third slip. Titchard and Speak played on and Fairbrother was leg-before so painlessly that he had to go to hospital for an X-ray on a toe before more forthright batting from Lloyd, Watkinson and Hegg kept Lancashire in the game.

In the circumstances, both

SCOREBOARD

SURREY: First Innings

D J Bicknell b Chapple 1

M P Pearson b Atherton 1

D A Titchard c Radcliffe 1

N Shahid lbw b Martin 1

D A Brown b Austin 1

B P Jubb c Atherton 1

T J Hogg c Hegg b Martin 1

G C Cok 1 (3 down) 1

J R Wickett c Atherton 1

R J Williams c Atherton 1

Strong man needed to lift Olympic gloom

Britain's bruised and battered sports contingent limped back from Atlanta this week to a muted welcome home and a promise that they should not worry, everything in Britain's sport is going to be all right.

The soothing words came from Iain Spratt, the Minister for Sport. He pledged that Britain would have "the highest standards of coaching and facilities" by the time of the next Olympic Games. You might wonder what is the point of a sports minister if the best we can do in an Olympic year is to look forward to the next Games.

Linford Christie reckons that champions like himself are now part of our past. "Any government efforts are now too late," he said. "Sport no longer seems to play such a big part in school life ... I don't think the teachers are keen to play their part. We have lost too many potential competitors."

Spratt promises a more "professional attitude", loads of lottery money, and John Major's dream of a sporting academy. But what many people think we need is a really strong man at the top, doing the job that should have been done all along by a Minister of Sport.

Chris Brasher, the inspiration and mentor of the London Marathon, and himself a former Olympic gold

medal-winner said: "I dealt with seven or eight ministers for sport in my 14 years of running the London Marathon — they were all pretty useless. I can't even remember more than two or three of them."

It is 34 years since we first had a Minister for Sport, and we still do not have a Minister of Sport with any real clout. In 1962 Lord Hailsham persuaded Harold Macmillan that there was a need for a ministry of sport, but for a focal point under a minister — a supremo who could lead the development of sport throughout the land.

Hailsham's analysis was right, but the trouble is that 11 sports ministers later we still have not really got one. What is needed, very simply, is a strong man with real power and a hefty budget to run British sport. And John Major, with his genuine love for sport, should appoint one.

Strong figures at the top in sport have a proven record. The French appointed their first minister just one year before Hailsham came up with the idea for Britain. De Gaulle had been stung into action by the failure of France to gain any victories in the Olympics of 1960. He gave his minister the power and status of a seat in the French cabinet.

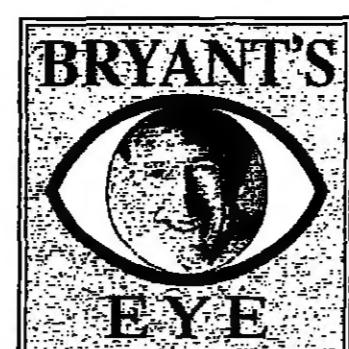
The current French minister of sport is the former Olympic hurdling

We still lack minister with clout

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silver medal-winner, Guy Drut, an energetic leader who (in contrast to Iain Spratt) was seen everywhere in Atlanta, inspiring the French team.

The Americans, too, know the value of tough, powerful figures at the top of sports. Such men are the commissioners, the leaders, of America's most successful sporting bodies — the National Football League and the National Basketball Association.

By contrast, baseball, which has not had a proper commissioner at its head for four years, shows all the signs of a sport in trouble. Two years ago an eight-month strike wiped out the season.

Baseball looks back with longing to its five years under Peter Ueberroth. Ambitious, a risk-taker, an entrepreneur he had been the guiding hand behind the success of the 1984 Los Angeles Olympic Games. Put such a

significant sporting tournament could become a ritual of the past.

The immediate agenda for action would be relatively simple: set up and fund a decent coaching structure throughout the land, and reverse the unnecessary decline of sport in our schools. The coaching set-up in this country is ludicrous. Up and down the land there are dedicated men and women who give of their time and expertise for practically nothing. Every so often one inspired coach will produce a cluster of successful sportsmen

— yet they get usually no funding, and little support. If we cannot train, recognise and reward our indispensable sporting gurus, perhaps we should steal them from the rest of the world.

It is worth noting that Steve Redgrave and Matthew Pinsent, our only gold medal-winners in Atlanta, are coached by Jürgen Grobler. He came from East Germany where he had been responsible for winning more than 40 world and Olympic gold medals.

Similarly, the American gold medal-winning women's gymnastics team is coached by Bela Karolyi, who before he defected from Romania was the coach who nurtured Nadia Comaneci.

So where do we find this sports supremo? Not, looking at the roll of

ministers for sport over the past three decades, among the minnows of the Department of National Heritage.

But there are great candidates. Sebastian Coe would seem a good bet, but he has always run away from the idea of a government job too closely tied to sport. Jeffrey Archer has time on his hands, the ear of the Prime Minister, immense energy and a lifelong interest in sport. He was in Atlanta and says he was almost in tears at seeing our athletes team continually hampered by the likes of France and Italy. If an Ueberroth figure is needed, who better than Richard Branson or Chris Brasher, who has given up running the

London Marathon to spend more time with his racehorses? He knows about sport, and he knows about winning.

In the first modern Olympics, 100 years ago in Athens, we ended up fifth out of ten in the medals table. The Times leader on the Games of 1896 has a horribly familiar message: "Possibly on the next occasion, in 1900, when the Games are held at Paris, we shall make a better show, but it will poorly compensate us for having missed the first chance."

A century on we have missed too many chances.

JOHN BRYANT



Nick Faldo, under the watchful eyes of David Leadbetter, his coach, and Fanny Sunesson, his caddie, drives during a practice round at the Valhalla course yesterday

Watson returns to familiar routine

FROM JOHN HOPKINS
GOLF CORRESPONDENT
IN LOUISVILLE

TOM WATSON was back in his customary position on the eve of major championships. The day before the 78th US PGA Championship begins at the Valhalla club here, he was assessing the field as only he, the winner of eight majors, can. One says back because a shoulder injury had forced him to withdraw from the Open last month, ending a run of 87 consecutive major championships.

"There are two men whose chances I like," Watson said. "Colin Montgomerie has a chance. Without any wind and as straight as he hits the ball, this is a good course for him. It's a fairways and greens course, one in which you must

hit the fairways and hit the greens to stand a chance."

The blue-grass rough is so deep and so dense that to hit any sort of controlled shot out of it is, at best, a good guess and, at worst, a bad guess. You can put your hands in it and give it a yank and you cannot break it. It is really tough. You do not want to be in the sand bunkers than the grass bunkers.

"I also like Fuzzy Zoeller," Watson continued. "He is a local, it's hot, good for his back and he'll have a lot of people supporting him here. So there's the tall and the short of it."

Watson looked fit and turned. He wore the light-coloured clothes that are es-

sential to repel heat estimated at 100 degrees on Tuesday and almost as hot again yesterday and he felt pleased with himself that he had sneaked a quick practice round last week when there was no one around and the weather was cooler.

This US PGA is certain to be dominated by the intense, damp heat that is so energy-sapping. "Make no mistake," Watson said, "the heat is going to be a factor — and so is stamina. You must have stamina to play a round here."

This week he has brought

the 1994 US Open at Oakmont, Pennsylvania, was as hot as it has been here this week and Montgomerie, who finished tied-second there, has learnt from that experience. Then he wore a black shirt and his red face was flushed. Perspiration poured from him. He looked uncomfortable.

This week he has brought

his bag, each one size larger than usual because, in the heat, his hands swell. He puts on a new one every three holes or so. And he has worn a wide-brimmed hat.

In this weather, Watson

said, Valhalla was a three-glove sort of course. "You take a glove out, warm up with it and take that off, tie it on your bag for it to dry out and go to your second glove. You play the first four or five holes with that, then put it in the bag. Then you take out a third

glove and when that gets wet, you take the first glove, which has dried out by now. I wear wristbands because otherwise the sweat gets into my palms too much. And, of course, I drink water on every hole."

Watson's injured shoulder responded so quickly to treatment from a doctor in Kansas City after he returned home that he was chipping and putting within a week. As he moored around at home, sad at not competing in the Open for the first time since 1975, he was disturbed by a telephone call from Sandy Tatum, a friend and past president of the United States Golf Association. "Watson," Tatum boomed down the telephone from San Francisco. "If you're going to miss an Open, this was as good a one as any. Four days of perfect weather on a benign course. It was a must an British Open."

Four men have won all four major championships — Gene Sarazen, Ben Hogan, Gary Player and Jack Nicklaus. Watson needs only a US PGA title to join them and turn the four-some into a foursome. "It would be a great honour and I've had a couple of great opportunities. I feel I am capable of winning after winning the Memorial. But, you know, stamina will give a lot to do with it — especially for a 47-year-old."

TEE-OFF TIMES FOR THE US PGA CHAMPIONSHIP

United States unless stated. All times BST		12.20 today, 16.23 tomorrow. C		14.53 and 19.05; S. Torrance (GB), B. C. Cronshaw, P. Senior (Aus), O. Lown, C. P. Finn		17.02 and 19.22; I. Wainwright (GB), F. Nobles (GB), B. L. Roberts, S. Ingram		15.11 and 19.23; S. Lavery, R. Allister (Aus), M. McCormick		17.53 and 13.41; C. Montgomerie (GB), F. Zoeller, F. Couples		18.20 and 19.22; J. Furyk, P. Jacobson, P. D. O'Hearn		18.02 and 13.59; T. Watson, E. Br. (SA), T. O'Leary, C. Stoen, P. Burke (G)		18.11 and 14.06; B. McCuller, C. Studley, M. Olesen (Ireland)		18.26 and 19.05; D. M. Martin, G. Kraft (USA), D. Walton, D. Freza (SA)		18.02 and 14.17; E. Aubrey, P. McNeeson, C. O'Leary (Ireland)		18.26 and 19.56; B. Wills, T. Tolles, J. Edwards		18.05 and 18.08; B. Brasher, J. Nelson B. Boys		18.38 and 14.35; P. U. Johnson (Swed), P. Sorenson (Den), A. Nakao (Japan)		18.54 and 14.45; D. Simpson, N. Lancker, M. A. Jimenez (Spa)		18.22 and 17.44; J. Cook, T. Heron, S. Simcox		18.41 and 17.53; N. Faldo (GB), S. Jones, T. Leemans, C. O'Leary (Ireland)		18.45 and 12.29; G. Bowman, M. Taylor, J. S. L. B. L. Roberts, S. Ingram		18.59 and 19.56; B. Wills, T. Tolles, J. Edwards		18.29 and 19.26; P. Stewart, L. Wadkins, L. Jonson		18.38 and 14.35; P. U. Johnson (Swed), P. Sorenson (Den), A. Nakao (Japan)		18.54 and 14.45; D. Simpson, N. Lancker, M. A. Jimenez (Spa)		18.23 and 12.20; J. Rath, W. Chapman, C. Tucker		18.45 and 12.29; G. Bowman, M. Taylor, J. S. L. B. L. Roberts, S. Ingram		18.59 and 19.56; B. Wills, T. Tolles, J. Edwards		18.29 and 19.26; P. Stewart, L. Wadkins, L. Jonson		18.38 and 14.35; P. U. Johnson (Swed), P. Sorenson (Den), A. Nakao (Japan)		18.54 and 14.45; D. Simpson, N. Lancker, M. A. Jimenez (Spa)		18.23 and 12.20; J. Rath, W. Chapman, C. Tucker		18.45 and 12.29; G. Bowman, M. Taylor, J. S. L. B. L. Roberts, S. Ingram		18.59 and 19.56; B. Wills, T. Tolles, J. Edwards		18.29 and 19.26; P. Stewart, L. Wadkins, L. Jonson		18.38 and 14.35; P. U. Johnson (Swed), P. Sorenson (Den), A. Nakao (Japan)		18.54 and 14.45; D. Simpson, N. Lancker, M. A. Jimenez (Spa)		18.23 and 12.20; J. Rath, W. Chapman, C. Tucker		18.45 and 12.29; G. Bowman, M. Taylor, J. S. L. B. L. Roberts, S. Ingram		18.59 and 19.56; B. Wills, T. Tolles, J. Edwards		18.29 and 19.26; P. Stewart, L. Wadkins, L. Jonson		18.38 and 14.35; P. U. Johnson (Swed), P. Sorenson (Den), A. Nakao (Japan)		18.54 and 14.45; D. Simpson, N. Lancker, M. A. Jimenez (Spa)		18.23 and 12.20; J. Rath, W. Chapman, C. Tucker		18.45 and 12.29; G. Bowman, M. Taylor, J. S. L. B. L. Roberts, S. Ingram		18.59 and 19.56; B. Wills, T. Tolles, J. Edwards		18.29 and 19.26; P. Stewart, L. Wadkins, L. Jonson		18.38 and 14.35; P. U. Johnson (Swed), P. Sorenson (Den), A. Nakao (Japan)		18.54 and 14.45; D. Simpson, N. Lancker, M. A. Jimenez (Spa)		18.23 and 12.20; J. Rath, W. Chapman, C. Tucker		18.45 and 12.29; G. Bowman, M. Taylor, J. S. L. B. L. Roberts, S. 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Murder One: the critic confesses his guilt

And so, after 23 episodes and a contentious break for the Olympics, we were about to learn the truth. The murderer of Jessica Costello was...

But hang on just a minute. If we're playing the truth game, I have something I feel I ought to own up to before we go much further. You may have faithfully watched all 23 chapters of *Murder One* (BBC2), but I have not. I have seen precisely... ahem, five.

Sorry, but there it is. I watched the first two episodes and then decided that Daniel Benzali's preposterous performance as lawyer-cum-God Ted Hoffman was not going to take up a day of my life. Not to mention all those clean-cut young men that surrounded him — some worked for him, some were policemen, some wanted to be a second chair (no doubt, a noble calling) but as far as I was concerned they were all made out of ticky-tacky and they all looked

the same. The sooner they got back in their little boxes the better.

So why the change of heart?

Why the sudden, all-consuming

interest in chapters 21 through 23?

Simple: after 22 weeks of *Murder One* being the cornerstone of BBC2's Tuesday night schedule, the powers-that-be in their infinite wisdom and in their near-infinite post-Olympic guilt decided that the final episode would be on a Wednesday night... last night, in fact: my night. Thanks a lot.

It is to the considerable credit of Steve Bochco's production team and, in particular, their cleverly constructed "previously on *Murder One*" sequence, that I managed to pick up the threads of the story pretty quickly during Tuesday night's double helping, so quickly, in fact, that I wondered what on earth could have kept you so happily occupied for the intervening 18 weeks. But, no doubt to the delight of all you tut-tutting at

the same. The sooner they got back in their little boxes the better.

So why the change of heart?

For the murderer of Jessica

Costello was... well not Neil

Avedon, obviously, he had been

found guilty on Tuesday. With

another two-and-a-half episodes to

fit it couldn't possibly be him. No,

the murderer of Jessica Costello

was somebody who hadn't ap-

peared for a single moment in any

of the episodes I'd seen.

S o come the big moment, when Richard Cross's snuff-video strayed, the murderer and you all went "Ooh, I knew it was him all along", "I told you it was him back in chapter 13", round at my house there was a deafening silence. After a few seconds, a little voice asked:

"Who's he?" "It was mine."

Anyway, all was eventually ex-

plained in words of sufficiently few

REVIEW



Matthew Bond

syllables for even me to understand what had been going on, I still didn't reckon much to Benzali's performance as Hoffman. Growl, growl, he went, never fluffing a sentence, never blowing a big moment, never, in fact, showing the first sign that he was a human being.

And I never did get the hang of all the interchangeable young men. "Am I the only one not to

know about Chris and Lisa?" asked Hoffman, as his team celebrated Avedon's acquittal in a not altogether traditional style. Worry not Ted, there were at least two of us — and now you mention it, who's Lisa?

But overall (in the one-fifth sense of the word) I thought I'd had a reasonable return of entertainment on the three-and-a-half hours or so of my life I'd invested in the series. Whether I would feel the same after committing over 17 hours, I leave to those who did.

The rest of the evening proved a curious beast. *Short Stories Running Wild* (Channel 4) purported to tell the story of the first ever dog sled race in Britain to run (sled) on snow, rather than wheels. The race, to be held in the Cairngorms of Scotland, had been organised by a public relations man. You could tell from the fact that the name of the race's sponsor cropped up in every other shot — on T-shirts,

baseball hats, race numbers, banners and socks of what I presume is a husky's favourite supper. Somewhere today, a marketing manager will be feeling very pleased with him- or herself.

Product placement apart, the film had unearthed some interesting characters from the 300 regular "mushers" in Britain, none more so than Ian Grant, a man who dreams of wolves and log cabins but in real life is an Edinburgh taxi-driver. Husky racing, explained this 15-stone bear of a man, was a surprisingly emotional business. "I give them all a wee kiss to say thank you for all their effort." On occasion he had even been known to shed a wee tear: "which, I suppose, is a bit silly." Well, only a little bit.

But having built up the pre-race tension quite nicely, the film skidded to a somewhat premature halt

when it became clear that not even a PR man could control the weather. As narrator Bill Paterson put it: "It was the day before the race... and the snow had completely gone." No kisses this time, then.

Lots of kisses on BBC2, along with lots of hugging, communal singing, laughing and generally having a high old time as the *Coming of Age* season continued with *Growing Old Disgracefully*. Following the six elderly but energetic members of the Hen Co-op on a wild weekend away on the Suffolk coast was an uplifting experience, marred ever so slightly by a feeling of intruding on a group therapy session and by the fact that the American women seemed to take the whole thing rather more seriously than the self-deprecating British. There, I've managed to be *ageist, sexist and xenophobic* in one sentence and now feel thoroughly ashamed with myself.

6.00am Business Breakfast (9446)

7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (25717)

9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (213485)

9.20 Delta Smith's Summer Collection (r) (Ceefax) (s) (7751224)

9.30 Gourmet Island (s) (5195224)

10.20 Scoundrels of Suburbia (7375576)

10.30 News, Regional News & Weather (Ceefax) (5431798)

10.55 Cricket — Second Test. Live action from Headington. From the Second Test between England and Pakistan (s) (5385137)

12.00 News and Weather (Ceefax) (1887040)

12.05pm The Alphabet Game (s) (4057243)

12.35 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (6895448)

1.00 News & Weather (Ceefax) (95576)

1.30 Regional News and Weather (Ceefax) (54162934)

1.35 Cricket — Second Test (s) (73244717)

5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (538972)

6.00 News & Weather (427)

6.30 Regional News Magazines (779)

7.00 Holidays Out. From Strathclyde County Park — host to the world rowing championships — Kirsty Young and Ben Hall present more ideas for days out across the country (Ceefax) (s) (4585)

7.30 EastEnders. Sonja's behaviour baffles Carol and Alan. Joe gives Lorraine and David even more cause for concern (Ceefax) (s) (683)

8.00 Back to the Wild. New series with Patrick Robinson going behind the scenes at the RSPCA's wildlife hospital in Somerset (Ceefax) (s) (3243)

8.30 Auntie's Sporting Bloomers. Terry Wogan introduces some bizarre interviews including an unforgettable chat with "Gazza", Paul Gascoigne. Plus the hazardous life of a BBC cameraman (Ceefax) (s) (2750)

9.00 News; Regional News; Weather (3088)

9.30 Aviation Particle. Football sit-com. Bonner drops Jack from the team for the cup match but at least he avoids Mambo, the dirtiest player in Sunday football. Meanwhile, Jack's wife Karen has a few dirty tricks of her own (Ceefax) (s) (93021)

10.00 The Defence of the Realm (Ceefax) (s) (640601)

10.55 FILM: *Crazy People* (1990). An advertising executive's suggestion that advertising should be totally truthful lands him in a mental hospital. When his adverts are accidentally published they are a great success and the executive and his fellow patients form their own agency. Stacey, Dudley Moore, Daryl Hannah, Paul Reiser, Mercedes Rush, J. T. Walsh and David Paymer. Directed by Tony Bill (Ceefax) (s) (4865408)

12.25 FILM: *Invasion of the Saucer Men* (1957, b/w) with Steve Terrell, Gloria Castillo, Frank Gorshin, Raymond Hatton, Lynn Olson and Russ Bender. Classic B-movie comedy. When a Martian is accidentally run over, his crewmates seek revenge by turning the population of the local village into alcoholics. Directed by Edward L. Cahn (3633625)

1.30-1.35am Weather (6031519)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

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6.00am Open University: Education and Society (9565682) 6.50pm Issues in Women's Studies (9825717) 6.50pm New Forms of Partnership (2639317)

7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (6241798)

7.30 The Brolys (1610363) 7.45 Lassie (1073595) 8.10 Smurfs Adventures (5677582) 8.35 Cartoon Critics (1885825) 9.05 Spiderman (2131866)

9.25 The Village by the Sea (7767785)

9.50 Puppydog Tales (3358750) 10.00 Playdays (7357330)

10.25 Man in a Suitcase (Ceefax) (2067750)

11.15 15mm Resolute Bay Stories (9235243)

12.00 Cricket (s) (50934) 1.00pm The Brolys (45104885) 1.40 11.5 A-Z of Food (2412682) 1.45 Wear It Well (4518332) 2.00 The Royal Wintry Show (Ceefax) (2524243) 2.20 Crawshaw Paints on Holiday (7572408) 2.45 A Life of Knowledge (4677972) 3.00 News (197398) 3.55 The Natural World (103702) 3.55 News (3558069)

4.00 Cartoon (5707158) 4.05 Little Mouse on the Prairie (Ceefax) (3567717) 4.30 Bounding Back: The Best Bits of Johnny Ball (Ceefax) (576) 5.00 Newsround (Ceefax) (7367750) 5.10 Byker Grove (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4503883)

5.35 Cricket — Second Test (s) (463446)

6.00 The Amazing Colossal Show. Examining 1950s B-movies (s) (791)

7.00 Seven Ages of Man. Professor Anthony Clare talks to Sir John Harvey Jones about the change in power and focus in his life over the years (Ceefax) (s) (2137)

7.30 Sir — Peace with Honour? The last in the series focusing on letters to the Editor of *The Times* between 1913 and 1919 (b/w) (Ceefax) (s) (205)

8.00 The Street. Kirsty Young and her team of troubleshooters head for an Edinburgh council estate (Ceefax) (s) (683)

8.30 One Foot in the Past. The heritage show calls for action to preserve the Firth of Forth Bridge (Ceefax) (s) (6232)

9.00 The Travel Show. Actress Anna Friel travels along Italy's Amalfi coast. Travel writer Jonathan Furey visits London townhouse hotels (s) (4330)

9.30 Dark Secret: Sexual Aversion (r) (Ceefax) (s) (51663)

10.00 Hancock: The Blood Donor. Beginning a run of 34 of his comedy performances, 40 years after his first television series (r) (b/w) (Ceefax) (48485)

11.15 Cricket — Second Test (s) (29486)

12.30pm Open University: The Lyonnais: a Changing Economy (40680) 1.30 History of Technology (34003) 2.00 Summer Nights: Great Outdoors Essentials (28625) 4.00-6.00 Espaia Viva/Diez Temas/Spanish Globe (18151)

7.00am Wary donor Tony Hancock (10.00pm)

10.00 Hancock: The Blood Donor. Beginning

a run of 34 of his comedy performances,

40 years after his first television series (r) (b/w) (Ceefax) (48485)

11.15 Cricket — Second Test (s) (29486)

12.30 Grace Under Fire (s) (77654)

1.00 Newsnight (Ceefax) (602601)

1.30-1.35am Weather (1815199)

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1.30pm The Movie Channel

1.30pm Ford Scars Got USA. USA PGA

Championships — Live (5291311) 1.00

Formula Three Racing (5291494) 1.15

Formula 1 (5291500) 1.30 Formula 1 (5291504) 1.45 Formula 1 (5291508)

10.45 Formula 1 (5291512) 1.55 Formula 1 (5291516) 1.55 Formula 1 (5291520)

1.00pm Formula 1 (5291524) 1.15 Formula 1 (5291528) 1.30 Formula 1 (5291532) 1.45 Formula 1 (5291536)

1.55pm Formula 1 (5291540) 1.15 Formula 1 (5291544) 1.30 Formula 1 (5291548) 1.45 Formula 1 (5291552) 1.55 Formula 1 (5291556)

1.30pm The Movie Channel

1.30pm Formula 1 (5291560) 1.00 Formula 1 (5291564) 1.15 Formula 1 (5291568) 1.30 Formula 1 (5291572) 1.45 Formula 1 (5291576) 1.55 Formula 1 (5291580) 1.65 Formula 1 (5291584) 1.80 Formula 1 (5291588) 1.95 Formula 1 (5291592) 2.00 Formula 1 (5291596) 2.15 Formula 1 (5291600) 2.30 Formula 1 (5291604) 2.45 Formula 1 (5291608) 2.60 Formula 1 (5291612) 2.75 Formula 1 (5291616) 2.90 Formula 1 (5291620) 3.05 Formula 1 (5291624) 3.20 Formula 1 (5291628) 3.35 Formula 1 (5291632) 3.50 Formula 1 (5291636) 3.65 Formula 1 (5291

